

SUMMARY FOR THE CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING

December 3, 2024
1:00pm – 4:00pm

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

Cal ICH Executive Officer, Meghan Marshall, called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

Council Members Present:

- **Tomiquia Moss (Co-Chair)** – Secretary, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
- **Kim Johnson (Co-Chair)** – Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
- **Tomás J. Aragón** – State Public Health Officer and Director, Department of Public Health
- **Deborah Avalos designee for William McGee** – Director, Student Achievement and Support Division,
- **Michelle Baass** – State Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director of Health Care Programs, Department of Health Care Services
- **Susan DeMarois** – Director, Department of Aging
- **Chris Edens, designee for Stephanie Clendenin** – Director, Department of State Hospitals
- **Rebecca Franklin** – Interim Council Member, Chief Deputy Director, Housing Finance Agency
- **Margot Kushel** – Director, Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative
- **Veronica Lewis** – Director, Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS)
- **Jeffrey Macomber** – Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation California Department of Education
- **Vivian Hernandez-Obaldia designee for Joe Xavier** – Director, Department of Rehabilitation
- **Kaina Pereira** – Executive Director, Workforce Development Board
- **Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy** – Vice Chancellor for Educational Services, Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- **Lindsey Sin** – Secretary, Department Veterans Affairs
- **Tony Tavares** – Director, Department of Transportation
- **Jennifer Troia** – Secretary, California Department Social Services
- **Gustavo Velasquez** – Director, Department of Housing and Community Development
- **Nancy Ward** – Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- **Marina Wiant** – Executive Director, Tax Credit Allocation Committee

II. Consent Calendar

There are two items on the Consent Calendar: Adoption of the [Meeting Summary from the July 11, 2024 Action Plan Input Meeting](#).

Adoption of the [Meeting Summary from the September 5, 2024, Council Meeting.](#)

No Council Members made comments on this item. There were no public comments. The Council voted to approve the consent calendar.

Vote: The Council voted to approve the Consent Calendar with 17 members voting yes and none abstaining or voting no.

III. Council Co-Chair Opening Remarks

Co-Chair Secretary Kim Johnson: Emphasized the Council's focus on supporting unsheltered populations through the action plan and ongoing behavioral health transformation. Proposition 1 integrates substance use, mental health, and homelessness interventions, with counties developing plans under new state guidelines. The CARE Act, now statewide, provides treatment and housing for individuals with untreated schizophrenia, with early success in counties like San Diego. While not a housing program, CARE supports those at risk of homelessness, incarceration, and conservatorship.

Co-Chair Secretary Tomiquia Moss: Stated that the plan drives action and measurable outcomes to reduce unsheltered homelessness in California. Described as a living document with interconnected goals, it requires swift action to provide housing and long-term stability. The three-year plan builds on past efforts and new legislation (AB 799, AB 977), with a focus on accountability and collaboration. Progress will be tracked using HDIS through dashboards. The blueprint is designed to engage local jurisdictions and partners in efforts to prevent and end homelessness

IV. Executive Officer Updates

Cal ICH Executive Officer, Meghan Marshall: Reported that the All Inside Federal Initiative concludes this month, with California as the only state partner addressing unsheltered homelessness. Maxine Pulliam (VA) led the effort statewide. Under new legislation, Secretary Christina Snider-Ashari (Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs) will join the Council on January 1, 2025. The executive team now includes Erica Costa (External Affairs) and Courtney Tacker (Policy & Innovation). Developed over 15 months, the Action Plan serves as a focused three-year roadmap with clear goals, actionable steps, and accountability measures for prevention, housing, services, and systemic barriers.

V. Overview of Action Plan Draft

Director Cody Zeger: Stated that in September 2023, the Council called for a bold new plan. By late 2023, a draft was developed, followed by public input and tribal consultations in 2024. Virtual and in-person meetings engaged partners, with ongoing feedback from the Lived Experience Advisory Board. The team refined goals, collaborated with partners, and finalized actions in a special Council meeting. With the plan now ready for adoption, the focus shifts to implementation and dissemination.

Local Initiatives Specialist Lisa Avron: A specialist with the California Local Initiatives Division and LEAB liaison, introduced two lead members: Danielle Francisco, Youth with Lived Experience

Coordinator for the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers, and Pixie Popplewell, Project Director of the California Homeless Youth Project, which oversees the state's first integrated data hub on youth homelessness.

Danielle Francisco: Shared the importance of including people with lived experience in policymaking, as their insights help address the root causes of homelessness. She shared how being in a space with fellow LEAB members empowered her and reinforced her commitment to systemic change. Danielle highlighted key priorities from the Action Plan, including strengthening Housing First approaches to ensure stable housing isn't denied due to the symptoms of homelessness and advancing trauma-informed, person-centered services. She hopes the plan fosters partnerships that center people experiencing homelessness in housing and policy decisions.

Pixie Popplewell: Emphasized that their voice is not the sole representation of lived experience. They highlighted the need to support those directly impacted, noting that people experiencing homelessness navigate service gaps without stability. Pixie stressed that Housing First must go beyond a buzzword—housing should provide independent living spaces that feel like home. Inclusion should extend beyond translation to full accessibility, including Braille and TTY. Collaboration should involve sharing resources, not just communication. They see the Action Plan as a foundation for change, emphasizing that true progress lies in implementation, accountability, and adaptability.

Cody Zeger: Presented the Action Plan as a roadmap for implementation. He cited 2023 data showing 180,000 people experiencing homelessness in California, with 68% unsheltered and racial disparities affecting Black, Indigenous, and Pacific Islander populations. The Plan prioritizes racial equity, Housing First, and trauma-informed services to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Goals for 2025-2027 include expanding access to permanent housing, reducing unsheltered homelessness, reducing returns to homelessness, strengthening prevention, and developing 1.5 million low-income housing units. Key investments like Behavioral Health Bridge Housing and HHAP, among many others, will support these efforts. With 170+ actions across five areas, success depends on agency coordination, data tracking, and accountability.

Veronica Lewis: Sought clarification on which of the 170 listed actions are already in progress versus those that are aspirational or planned for the next three years. She suggested explicitly distinguishing between ongoing initiatives and new actions to provide a clearer timeline. Second, she requested more details on the Council's role in performance measurement, particularly how tangible, measurable goals would be set and tracked. Referencing page 71 of the plan, she stressed the importance of accountability in ensuring outcomes are effectively measured.

Cody Zeger: Addressed Veronica's questions, noting that the Plan does not currently distinguish between ongoing and new actions, as all are either underway or planned within the three-year timeframe. He acknowledged the need for clearer tracking and committed to bringing her feedback to the team. Regular monthly meetings with department staff already monitor progress, and once the plan is adopted, these meetings will focus specifically on its actions to ensure follow-through. While the plan doesn't explicitly separate ongoing work, progress is tracked internally.

Meghan Marshall: Confirmed that all investments in the Plan have budget approval and funding, making them tangible initiatives, not aspirational. She clarified that both existing programs and new additions have state funding and approval.

Veronica Lewis: Sought clarity on the timeline for measures and the Council's role in their development. She emphasized the need for clear tracking and raised concerns about report-back mechanisms, the frequency of data collection, and varying timelines for actions. Veronica wanted more understanding of the process and the Council's support role.

Cody Zeger: Outlined the approach to performance measurement, proposing a focus on assessing the impact of Strategic Investments in the first year. He expressed interest in involving the Council more actively through quarterly updates and ongoing discussions, seeking suggestions on how to structure its role in monitoring and supporting actions between formal reports.

Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy: Highlighted the importance of collaborating with non-housing agencies to address data collection challenges, such as outdated student data. She stressed the need for investments to improve data collection without overburdening staff. Additionally, she expressed concern about the vague, qualitative action steps in the plan and questioned whether the theory of change was clear enough to ensure goals lead to broader objectives. She suggested refining the theory of change and setting more specific goals early for the plan's success.

Meghan Marshall: Acknowledged the aspirational goals in the Action Plan and reassured the Council that if goals aren't met or there's a deficit in year two, it would be an opportunity to reassess, adjust policies, and make improvements for year three. She emphasized that this process could also inform future policy decisions.

Margot Kushel: Stressed the importance of addressing coordination challenges between agencies early on, especially in relation to implementation activities, to resolve issues quickly. Second, she noted that changes in federal funding or policy could require adjustments to goal setting and parts of the plan.

Cody Zeger: Emphasized the need for a detailed implementation plan to effectively use resources and staff time, including the LEAB and Advisory Committee. He highlighted the importance of identifying successes and challenges quickly, adapting to changes like federal funding shifts, and ensuring coordination between agencies. Cody sought the Council's input on the best approach for implementation.

Kim Johnson: Suggested adding a statement on budget appropriations' impact amid federal funding uncertainty. Emphasized tracking interconnected efforts and aligning staff updates with Plan goals for clarity and accountability. Proposed amending Goal 4 to include SSI and other benefits for vulnerable populations. Highlighted data collection challenges and the need for consistency to measure progress. Recommended tracking year-over-year percentage changes for transparency.

Susan DeMarois: Raised concerns about translating abstract percentages into real-world impact, suggesting it would be more helpful to use actual numbers of people affected. She also questioned whether the 180,000 figure from the point-in-time count would serve as a baseline for all three years or be adjusted annually, and how changes in these numbers might affect the plan's projections and outcomes.

Cody Zeger: Clarified that the 180,000 figure from the point-in-time count (PIT) wouldn't be used for the plan's goals. The first three goals will rely on quarterly data from the Homelessness Data Integration System (HDIS), which aggregates local data for a clearer picture. Baseline data for

these goals will be set in 2023 and updated regularly. Goal 4 will use a combination of HDIS and Health and Human Services (HHS) data, while the fifth goal focuses on HDIS data related to housing outcomes.

Susan DeMarois: Stressed the importance of translating percentages into actual numbers to improve the urgency and clarity of the goals, noting that the scale of the goal (e.g., 10 vs. 10,000 people) affects how it is prioritized. She suggested including numbers to make the data more tangible. She also questioned the figure of 710,000, asking why it wasn't half of 1.5 million and if it came from a specific calculation.

Cody Zeger: Explained that the 710,000 figure is part of HCD's 2030 goals, which are divided by income levels. It reflects planned households for low and very low-income populations, as well as those below certain income thresholds.

Gustavo Velasquez: Explained that the 710,000 figure is part of a larger eight-year goal to build 1.1 million homes for low and extremely low-income households by 2030.

Cody Zeger: Agreed with Director DeMarois, highlighting that while the numbers are important, the real-world impact—whether 10 people or 10,000—matters. He emphasized the need to focus not just on the goals but also on how the work to achieve them is discussed and tracked.

Veronica Lewis: Emphasized the need for lead agencies to attach projected start and end dates to action areas within the first six months of 2025 to improve accountability. She also suggested a supplemental document for clarity and coordination by department. Additionally, she highlighted the rising number of unsheltered families with children and the need to address their unique challenges beyond education.

Cody Zeger: Shared wanting to work toward moving from static PDFs to a filterable online tool, allowing users to sort actions and investments by department, goal, or population for better accessibility and easier updates.

Meghan Marshall: Highlighted recent legislation granting Cal ICH the authority and obligation to work with Council departments on financial and outcomes data. She supported a six-month timeline to develop a framework, noting it aligns with statutory requirements, and emphasized collaboration with departments on staff capacity and program-specific data.

Tomiquia Moss: Emphasized connecting actions to percentage goals, using outcome and fiscal data from recent legislation to assess progress. She suggested six-month reviews to adjust efforts and address gaps, potentially visualizing this in a public dashboard for better transparency.

Meghan Marshall: Stated that the second year of the Action Plan focuses on measuring progress against baseline data. By the third year, the state will evaluate actions' effectiveness, identify successful policies, and develop Council recommendations for continued support or reinvestment when fiscal conditions improve.

Lindsey Sin: Mentioned the need to connect state funding and programs to regional progress in California. She stressed the importance of linking actions to local impacts, addressing gaps in county and city representation. She proposed creating a dashboard to clearly tie funding and outcomes to specific regions, enhancing transparency.

Meghan Marshall: Noted that Cal ICH hosts HDIS, a statewide CoC data collection, and that the Division of Local Initiatives is using a regional approach to build coalitions, promote best practices, and provide targeted technical assistance, all informed by data.

Veronica Lewis: Asked whether Action Area 4 includes any mention of creating a dashboard for regions, as mentioned by Council Member Sin.

Cody Zeger: Explained that while there is no action in the Plan for a dashboard, the team is working on creating one using HDIS data. The goal is to provide quarterly updates and make the data filterable by location or region.

Lindsey Sin: Highlighted the need to address data limitations on CalFresh and other safety net resources, assessing feasible data for reporting to the Council. Emphasized the interconnectedness of goals, especially the link between affordable housing and navigation, and ongoing collaboration with Dr. Kushel to measure prevention efforts.

Meghan Marshall: Clarified that the study referenced by Co-Chair Johnson is separate from the work of the Council. It is being conducted with the Department of Social Services, and she made the distinction for the benefit of the public.

Veronica Lewis: Expressed the need for transparency about data limitations and efforts to improve it. She suggested that sharing these details, along with the dashboard and numbers, will help the public stay informed and engaged with the Council's work.

Cody Zeger: Acknowledged Council Member Lewis's point on transparency, noting the Plan discusses data limitations, highlighting disparities like the underrepresentation of tribal communities and those doubled up or couch surfing, and emphasizes presenting these limitations with the data.

Council Members: Moved to adopt the plan with the adjustment to Goal 4, adding "SSI and other benefits" to the listed items.

Public Comment on Agenda Item V. Overview of Action Plan Draft

Ludmilla Bade: Made a public comment raising concerns about the plan's lack of flexibility, especially with potential changes from federal programs. She emphasized that social connection, not just services, is key to resolving homelessness. Ludmilla called for more spaces promoting social connections, such as drop-ins and faith-based centers, where individuals feel welcome and valued, stressing the need to avoid further marginalization.

Susannah Parsons: Made a public comment expressing concern about the removal of a homelessness prevention goal. She pointed out that for every person exiting homelessness, 3 – 4 are becoming homeless for the first time. She called for a focus on preventing homelessness for high-risk households and emphasized the need for tracking progress with appropriate metrics.

Patti Prunhuber: Made a public comment urging a broader prevention strategy for homelessness, particularly for older adults entering homelessness for the first time after age 50. She recommended adding numerical targets to Goal 4 and expanding the focus beyond Social Services to include a range of CalAIM services for housing support. She also endorsed the inclusion of SSI and other benefits.

Marty Omoto: Made a public comment supporting a broader homelessness prevention strategy, echoing previous comments on Goal 4. He advocated for the inclusion of SSI and recommended adding Regional Center services for individuals at risk of homelessness. He emphasized the importance of this information as an educational tool for raising awareness about homelessness prevention.

Council Member discussion resumed

Veronica Lewis: Asked for clarification on the prevention language, specifically regarding the broader concept of preventing homelessness, not just preventing people from falling back into homelessness, but also preventing individuals from becoming homeless in the first place.

Cody Zeger: Explained that the plan includes exploring how to measure the inflow into homelessness. A challenge with HDIS data is that it tracks service access, making it difficult to determine if fewer people are becoming homeless or if fewer people are being served.

Meghan Marshall: Noted that the new Goal 4 acknowledges prevention and provides a timeline for working with Health and Human Services to define what prevention means for at-risk populations. It ensures access to cash assistance or insurance benefits that could prevent homelessness or connect individuals to services.

Director of Research Sydney Bennet: Emphasized that HDIS alone can't measure prevention, as it doesn't capture the full at-risk population. The prevention goal's focus on HHS partners is a first step toward broader data sharing. The aim is to track impactful actions that drive progress, not just informational data points.

Meghan Marshall: Highlighted that this is the first time HDIS data has been shared with Council departments for comparison with eligibility systems like CalWORKs. By measuring this data against HDIS, the state can better understand and address homelessness risk.

Tomiquia Moss: Stated that there is a need to go deeper on prevention in the Plan. She highlighted that the inflow of homelessness is outpacing exits and emphasized the importance of partnering with state agencies and regional organizations using data to track inflows. She acknowledged that this is the first step in addressing prevention and encouraged further refinement and inclusivity in targeting homelessness prevention.

Margot Kushel: Underscored the need for a goal and action on homelessness prevention, noting that HDIS isn't suitable for measuring it. She highlighted the challenge of targeting the right individuals and mentioned successful local efforts, like in Los Angeles, using linked data sets for prevention. Despite data limitations, she stressed that prevention should remain a priority.

Veronica Lewis: Highlighted the need to differentiate between predictive analytics and actual prevention, especially with eviction moratoriums ending. She expressed concern that excluding prevention due to measurement limitations could impact other aspirational goals and encouraged re-inclusion of prevention, as the Council aims to prevent and end homelessness.

Tomás J. Aragón: Suggested setting goals even if they can't be measured immediately, emphasizing the importance of including a prevention component in the plan. He noted that local implementations often use higher-level plans as playbooks and may be able to leverage or measure prevention even if the state cannot.

Cody Zeger: Explained that a previously discussed goal was removed due to its similarity to another ratio already in the plan. The ratio compared newly accessing homelessness services and returnees to the number of people housed. While the specific ratio was removed, those numbers are still included in the plan, and further breakdowns will be provided to track trends.

Margot Kushel: Suggested that while the previously discussed numbers were problematic, a goal for prevention, targeting, and diversion should still be included in the plan, even if it currently lacks a measurable outcome. She emphasized the need for action on prevention, focusing on targeted interventions and diversion, and highlighted that prevention should remain a clear priority in the plan.

Tomiquia Moss: Noted that Goal 4 addresses prevention but should be expanded to include both social services interventions and targeted homelessness prevention. She suggested providing direction to staff for further exploration of methodologies and data sets to help achieve this goal.

Margot Kushel: Observed that Goals 1, 2, 3, and 5 are broad, focusing on housing and service access, while Goal 4 is very specific. She expressed concern that the specificity of Goal 4 might unintentionally downplay the broader range of actions that could be taken for prevention.

Meghan Marshall: Acknowledged that the motion was for Goal 4 to be expanded to include programs like Medi-Cal, CalWorks, SSI, and other related programs, not just benefit programs.

Margot Kushel: Suggested thinking of prevention as a strength, including but not limited to improving connections to health and social services. She also clarified that within Health and Social Services, there are housing and homelessness programs, so the category is already quite broad. The inclusion of "but not limited to" is important to emphasize that health and social services are just one example of strengthening prevention.

Veronica Lewis: Suggested including financial assistance and legal aid programs as key aspects of prevention, offering them as additions to the list under "including but not limited to."

Cody Zeger: Shared that he's hearing a concern that by specifically calling out the two programs, the focus may have unintentionally narrowed. He suggested broadening the goal to include a wider range of prevention programs and emphasized that the implementation could be expanded over time as more programs are measured.

Lindsey Sin: Proposed adding a new action area focused on Cal ICH's work to determine ways to measure prevention. This would complement Action Area 4, which uses data strategically.

Cody Zeger: Stated that the plan has an action in Action Area 4, added due to these discussions. Also reiterated the proposed goal, "Goal 4 is to strengthen prevention through improved connections to Health and Social Services. The aim is to increase the percentage of individuals or families at risk of homelessness who are enrolled in services that prevent homelessness, including but not limited to certain programs."

Margot Kushel: Suggested simplifying the goal for Goal 4 to "help prevent more people from becoming homeless," following the model of the other goals. They also emphasized that as measurement capabilities improve in the future, the approach can evolve.

Meghan Marshall: Emphasized the need for the Director of Data and Research to review the goal. She explained that while baseline data was missing for Goal 4, Health and Social Services data could help gather it in the future.

Sydney Bennet: Explained that the goal is to prevent homelessness for all Californians and achieving that would eliminate the need for other services. She mentioned starting with HHS programs for measurement and expanding over time as more departments and data are added, with more progress expected by 2026 or 2027. The aim is to build toward more holistic goals and better data in future Action Plans.

Tomás J. Aragón: Stressed the importance of setting goals even without immediate measurement, as long as a clear theory of change exists. Explained that public health efforts, like maintaining financial stability and preventing medical crises, help prevent homelessness, even if direct measurement is challenging.

Veronica Lewis: Clarified that the language should be adjusted to "help more people prevent becoming homeless" and move the social service language to the right to align with the focus on prevention programs.

Cody Zeger: Proposed the goal title and description be adjusted to "help prevent more people from experiencing homelessness," with an acknowledgment in the methodology of what is currently measurable and an intention to expand it in the future.

Sandee Nieves: Suggested referring to "publicly funded safety net services" as a simple way to group all relevant programs, which could be used for measurement and methodology later.

Meghan Marshall: Acknowledged that Goal 4 was intended to be fluid and emphasized that the methodology for it would be addressed and fleshed out through the end of 2025. She clarified that the current item was to adopt the Plan with amendments to the goal statement, while the methodology would evolve over time.

Susan DeMarois: Suggested that, logically, the goal as rewritten seems more fitting as goal number one, as it focuses on prevention. She pointed out that it feels out of place as Goal 4, as prevention should come first in the sequence.

Meghan Marshall: Emphasized that partner feedback called for bold, urgent action. While goals are numbered, they are pursued in parallel, prioritizing those currently experiencing homelessness, recognizing housing creation takes time.

Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy: Supported Goal 4 as proposed but stressed the need for data exploration. She highlighted that beyond social safety net access, measurement is key to guiding prevention efforts and should be reflected in the table.

Public Comment on Agenda Item V. Overview of Action Plan Draft

Ludmilla Bade: Suggested strengthening prevention by enhancing social connections and services to address isolation, addiction, and homelessness. Proposed including Medi-Cal and CalWORKs, rebranding mobile crisis teams as mobile health teams, and fostering social connections. Asked if her suggestions aligned with discussions.

Marty Omoto: Made a public comment, as a family member and representative of the California Disability Community Action Network. He expressed appreciation for the thoughtful discussion

among Council members, noting that it made advocates feel supported and valued. He thanked everyone for their hard work and expressed his support for the changes being made.

Vote: Council Member Lewis moved, and Jennifer Troia seconded the motion. The Council voted to approve the Action Plan with 19- members voting yes, 0- members abstaining, and 1-member absent during the vote.

VI. Resources for Local Partners

Cody Zeger: Introduced the next agenda item which would focus on resources for local partners. He emphasized Pixie's earlier point that the Plan is just a scaffolding, and that work has already been underway across various departments, even as discussions about the plan were ongoing. He invited Courtney Tacker, the Director of Policy and Innovation, to present.

Director of Policy and Innovation Courtney Tacker: Presented the Homeless Emergency and Active Readiness Toolkit (HEART), designed to help local jurisdictions plan for emergencies affecting people experiencing homelessness. She highlighted its alignment with Action Area 3 on collaboration and planning. Courtney also introduced Caressa Smith, a member of Cal ICH's Lived Experience Advisory Board, who contributed to the toolkit.

Caressa Smith: A member of the Lived Experience Advisory Board and Lake County Continuum of Care, praised the Homeless Emergency and Active Readiness Toolkit (HEART) for its importance to rural communities like Lake County, often impacted by wildfires. She highlighted the unique challenges of rural homelessness, including limited visibility, transportation barriers, and remote locations. Caressa stressed the need for proactive outreach, trauma-informed care at shelters, and accommodations for pets. She emphasized that rural homelessness requires a tailored approach, with strong relationships and advance preparation for effective emergency response.

Meghan Marshall: Noted that, based on her local experience in public health and social services, this resource would have been invaluable, as those focused on this population are often excluded from disaster management despite their critical role.

Kim Johnson: Drawing from her ESF 6 (Mass Care and Shelter) experience, she stressed the need for language access and noted that unsheltered populations often stay in shelters longer post-disaster, creating opportunities for housing connections. She encouraged tailoring communication to each sector's terminology—ESF terms for emergency services and welfare frameworks for human services—to improve collaboration.

Meghan Marshall: The toolkit includes a 100-page section with an incident command structure visual, detailing local roles like medical branches, public health, and welfare directors. While broad, it can be tailored for groups like the California Welfare Director's Association or Public Health Directors.

Nancy Ward: Highlighted the need to target more emergency managers, especially at conferences like the California Emergency Services Association, which attracts professionals from various sectors. She also mentioned involving County Emergency Managers in a CAAS conference to discuss Emergency Operations planning and integrate task force lessons.

Rebecca Franklin: Reiterated the Lived Experience Advisory Board's sentiments and shared her background from Del Norte County. She suggested partnering with schools or local education offices in rural areas to share emergency information, noting how schools acted as hubs during power outages and emergencies.

Courtney Tacker: Acknowledged the suggestion and mentioned that the work group includes members from the Department of Education. She noted that roles local education can support in emergencies have been identified and that the group intends to develop more specific resources for rural areas in the future.

Meghan Marshall: Reiterated that the Statewide task force is intended to support local efforts. She emphasized that while it's crucial to connect with local emergency services, the task force itself isn't responsible for making connections with individual school districts. Instead, she suggested that the Step-Up Committee work with the California Department of Education to determine how to best connect with their partners and local education departments.

Veronica Lewis: Inquired about local outreach efforts, particularly regarding Continuums of Care (CoCs) and health departments with specialized teams and asked for clarification on how local systems supporting unsheltered individuals are being addressed.

Courtney Tacker: Confirmed that the groups mentioned by Veronica Lewis, are among those they plan to present to. The goal is to share the resource, explain its benefits to local communities, and gather feedback for the development of future resources. She also expressed openness to other suggestions for groups that might be valuable to contact.

Gina Buccieri-Harrington: Highlighted the importance of including community-based organizations, particularly those involved with the Listos California Grant Program in the education process regarding the toolkit. She offered to provide further information on this.

Tomiquia Moss: Suggested considering the role of people experiencing homelessness in disaster recovery within their communities. She drew a parallel to how CALFIRE recruits formerly incarcerated individuals for disaster preparedness and workforce opportunities. She emphasized thinking about how individuals experiencing homelessness can both contribute to and benefit from recovery efforts as communities rebuild.

Meghan Marshall: Shared that surveys and feedback from those with lived experience revealed that some people experiencing homelessness are intentionally excluded from disaster relief, with policies barring those homeless before a disaster. Emphasized the need to address this issue in both immediate and ongoing efforts.

Susan DeMarois: Suggested exploring FEMA and the American Red Cross's role, as they are often first responders. Highlighted the value of educating these organizations to prevent exclusion of homeless individuals.

Meghan Marshall: Highlighted the Red Cross's role in excluding homeless individuals from services and stressed aligning State expectations with their policies. Emphasized that disaster relief should be available to all impacted individuals, with the toolkit addressing feedback from local communities and those with lived experience.

Margot Kushel: Highlighted that the California Statewide Survey found people in counties directly impacted by wildfires, as well as those in neighboring counties, experienced homelessness years later due to the disaster. She noted that many who were already homeless before the event were excluded from services, not just by the Red Cross but also FEMA, which primarily focuses on replacing lost housing—leaving out those who didn't have housing to begin with.

Courtney Tacker: Explained that the first iteration of the work focused broadly and did not delve into specific issues like "micro emergencies." She noted that these would be valuable recommendations for future efforts, suggesting the group develop additional resources to address such areas.

Meghan Marshall: Asked Council Member Ward to speak to disaster designations, such as those for inclement weather, are often determined by local jurisdictions. While the plan could potentially incorporate these determinations, she emphasized that the Toolkit is intended to address formally declared disasters.

Nancy Ward: Explained that extreme weather protocols include opening warming and cooling centers for people experiencing homelessness. She clarified that disaster assistance is scaled based on event severity, with unhoused individuals eligible for aid, including personal property assistance from FEMA and the Red Cross.

Meghan Marshall: Clarified that the information shared is based on responses received from local entities, including cities, counties, and Continuums of Care, rather than reflecting the interpretation of Cal ICH. She emphasized that the feedback provided by these respondents informs their understanding of the situation.

Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy: Underscored the role of California's 115 community colleges as service hubs during disasters. She stressed the need for clear problem statements and contextualized messaging to connect disaster efforts to the colleges' mission and enhance engagement, offering the system office's support in crafting these messages.

Meghan Marshall: Noted that Yuba City College is a key partner for Yuba and Sutter Counties, offering its expansive campus as a hub for disaster incidents. She pointed to this partnership as an excellent example for other communities looking to collaborate with their local community colleges.

Meghan Marshall: Welcomed recommendations from key organizations like the California Welfare Directors Association and Public Health Directors Association. She encouraged further partnerships and mentioned HCD joining the initiative. She also highlighted HCD's office hours for grantees, offering tailored presentations.

Courtney Tacker: Thanked everyone and informed them that the resource would be sent out later this week to all Council members.

VII. General Public Comment

Ruth: Shared a situation in Los Angeles where Ava faces homelessness due to a notice to vacate. Despite advocating for herself, she cannot access the Homekey waiting list, with a vacant property since 2022 despite \$15 million in funding. Ruth expressed frustration that Ava, despite disabilities and rental history, remains ineligible for assistance, leaving Homekey properties contributing to unsheltered homelessness.

Ludmilla Bade: Praised the emergency preparedness presentation, sharing how CERT training helped during homelessness. Advocated for modular training on fire safety, floods, go-bags, and 911 interactions. Suggested survivor-led training at resource fairs, drop-in centers, and adult schools.

VIII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Meghan Marshall, Cal ICH Executive Officer: Adjourned the meeting at 4:02pm. Next Council meeting: March 12th, 2025, at 1:00 pm.