

**SUMMARY FOR THE CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS  
QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 4, 2025**

**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 1:05 PM.

**Council Members Present:**

- **Tomiquia Moss (Co-Chair)** – Secretary, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)
- **Kim Johnson (Co-Chair)** – Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)
- **Hanna Azemati, designee for Jennifer Troia** – Secretary, California Department Social Services (CDSS)
- **Michelle Baass** – State Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director of Health Care Programs, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
- **Allison Beer, designee for Rowena Tomaneng** – Deputy Chancellor for the California Community Colleges (CCCCO)
- **Stephanie Clendenin** – Director, Department of State Hospitals (DSH)
- **Susan DeMarois** – Director, Department of Aging (CDA)
- **Ricki Hammett, designee for Nancy Ward** – Director, Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)
- **Michael Keevers** – Director, Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- **Margot Kushel** – Director, Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative
- **Veronica Lewis** – Director, Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS)
- **Loretta Miranda, designee for Christina Snider-Ashtari** – Secretary, Governor’s Office of Tribal Affairs
- **Erica Pan** – State Public Health Officer and Director, Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- **Kaina Pereira** – Executive Director, Workforce Development Board (CWDB)
- **Kim Rutledge** – Director, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)
- **William McGee** - Director of the Student Achievement Support Division, California Department of Education (CDE)
- **Lindsey Sin** – Secretary, Department Veterans Affairs (CalVet)
- **Gustavo Velasquez** – Director, Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
- **Marina Wiant** – Executive Director, Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC)

**II. Consent Calendar**

One item on the Consent Calendar: Adoption of the [Meeting Summary from the March 12, 2025 Council Meeting](#).

No Council Member or public comments on this item.

**Vote:** The Council voted to approve the Consent Calendar with thirteen (13) members voting yes and three (3) members abstaining.

### **III. Council Co-Chair Opening Remarks**

**Co-Chair Secretary Tomiquia Moss:** Informed the Council that in April the Governor submitted a plan to the Little Hoover Commission to reorganize BCSH into two separate agencies: Business and Consumer Services Agency (BCSA), dedicated to consumer protections and California Housing and Homelessness Agency (CHHA), dedicated to housing and homelessness. The Little Hoover Commission has submitted an approval to the Legislature. Detailed current efforts in response to the recent wildfires in Los Angeles and constant monitoring of potential cuts to federal funding that may affect programs in the State were also highlighted. Expressed gratitude to Cal ICH Advisory Committee members that are transitioning out of the committee this year.

**Co-Chair Secretary Kim Johnson:** Acknowledged outgoing Advisory Committee (AC) members and added appreciation for their work. Further expanded on the conversation of the federal budget and noted appreciation for those lifting up successes and what is working related to integration efforts across housing, health and social services. Secretary Johnson highlighted a \$200 million flexible housing subsidy pool funded through Proposition 35 to support individuals with significant behavioral health needs and emphasized the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act's focus on unsheltered individuals with schizophrenia. Noted Proposition One's \$4.4 billion investment in 124 projects to expand mental health and substance use disorder facilities. Beginning in 2026, counties will be required to dedicate 30% of Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) funds to housing interventions for those most at risk of homelessness.

### **IV. Executive Officer Updates**

**Cal ICH Executive Officer, Meghan Marshall:** Announced initiatives by Cal ICH External Affairs and Local Initiatives teams to assist local jurisdictions, which include proactive technical assistance. Recently released the Homeless Emergency and Active Readiness Toolkit (HEART) and the facilitation of webinars to introduce the HEART disaster response toolkit. Announced the recruitment process for new Cal ICH Advisory Committee members, aided by recommendations from Council members.

### **V. Outgoing Advisory Committee Recognition**

Cal ICH Director of Statewide Policy, Cody Zeger recognized outgoing AC members. Informed the Council that three Advisory Committee members will retain their seats into the new term to assist with onboarding new members. In-person comments were provided by outgoing Advisory Committee members:

**Ludmilla Bade:** Emphasized the value of improving interactions and connections with individuals experiencing homelessness within state programs, imploring staff to take the role of a coach and explore other creative approaches. Advocated for improved pathways for these individuals to report grievances, provide feedback, and share success stories from their experiences.

**Jevon Wilkes:** Thanked Council Co-chairs for their leadership. Expressed experience on the ground with people, especially regarding youth experiencing homelessness. Highlighted the blessing of going from lived experience to participating in this role, a lifetime dream that has been

achieved. Highlighted the amazing work of CalAIM and Transitional Rent, while recognizing there are still things we need to do. Voiced excitement to continue as a member of the AC with Alex Visotzky and Roxanne Wilson.

## **VI. Strategic Investment Spotlight: Prop 1 Implementation Update**

Cal ICH Executive Officer, Meghan Marshall, DHCS Director Michelle Baass, HCD Director Gustavo Velasquez, and CalVet Secretary Lindsey Sin presented information and updates on Proposition 1 implementation. Presentations included milestones, capstones, support offered, and collaboration occurring across the responsible departments. Detailed information can be found in the [meeting presentation](#) materials.

Council Member Questions and Discussion:

**Veronica Lewis:** The presentation was extremely informative and appreciated the collaboration and coordination to provide services. Expressed interest in receiving more about the pre-application consultations to ensure that these applicants will meet thresholds.

**Gustavo Velasquez:** Homekey has been successful because pre-application consultations are required. This consultation provides a dedicated team that can dive into specifics. It allows clarification on an individual basis so they can modify and make a successful plan. The dedicated TA prior to submitting a plan is valued and it also allows for a faster process for staff upon review.

**Lindsay Sin:** Added CalVet's role is clarifying which benefits might be available from the federal government and who in the community is more experienced in serving veterans. This pre-application process allows for and optimizes these connections and can make the application and project more successful.

**Veronica Lewis:** Raised concerns about meeting the 15-month project goal, noting delays from local bureaucracy and planning processes based on her experience with three Homekey projects. Asked how the state is addressing these challenges.

**Gustavo Velasquez:** While some local barriers exist, most delays have stemmed from material shortages, labor issues, and supply chain disruptions. He emphasized that this affects only a minority of projects and said the state is refining guidelines to help localities move projects forward more quickly.

**Tomiquia Moss:** Highlighted the need for local support for behavioral health and permanent supportive housing projects to be built, which could be achieved through advocacy at Council and Board of Supervisors meetings if there is ever opposition.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Shared that Cal ICH can support local jurisdictions by attending meetings and advocating on behalf of housing projects that are receiving pushback.

**Dr. Margot Kushel:** Expressed support for the shift from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to BHSA, particularly recognizing substance use as a medical issue. Asked how the balance is determined between community and institutional care and whether the public understands how hospital-like facilities fit into housing requirements. Stressed the need for clear messaging to manage expectations, warning that the initiative could be seen as a failure if people expect it to solve overall homelessness, rather than serve a specific high-need population.

- **Michelle Baass:** Explained that the 30% housing intervention funds were designated for rental and operating subsidies, not for Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) treatment facility institutional care, which is funded separately. Discussed efforts to set quality measures, including reducing homelessness among people with behavioral health needs, and highlighted collaboration with public health partners to track and evaluate progress toward broader behavioral health goals.

**Veronica Lewis:** Asked whether alternatives to incarceration are included in the broader goals, particularly given the high number of incarcerated individuals with mental health conditions.

- **Michelle Baass:** Confirmed that reducing incarceration was one of the 14 goals and a priority population under the BHSA, with an emphasis on aligning population health goals with the initiative's overall objectives.

**Tomiquia Moss:** Emphasized that while Homekey+ targets a smaller group most affected by behavioral health issues and housing instability, there is a need to resource the full housing continuum, from homelessness to homeownership. Stressed the importance of clear communication about the population that current programs serve and called for more strategic use of resources across all housing needs.

## **VII. Accountability in Strategic Investments**

Executive Officer Meghan Marshall facilitated discussion on accountability in strategic investments. Council members were asked their recommendations to align reporting requirements, performance metrics, and technical assistance to grantees. This information can be found in the [meeting presentation](#) materials.

Council Member Questions and Discussion:

**Veronica Lewis:** Raised concerns about administrative burdens, urging departments and agencies to evaluate their policies and practices to ensure they are not unintentionally hindering service providers. Highlighted delays in funding distribution, such as with the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program, where jurisdictions receive funds up to eight months late, placing undue financial strain on providers. Called for improved alignment between policy and implementation to enhance outcomes and access. Noted the lack of discussion on equity and asked agencies to share how they are monitoring disparities and addressing inequities.

**Michelle Baass:** Noted that equity is central to their overall population health and behavioral health transformation goals under the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). Emphasized that an equity lens is being applied, with specific metrics included as the measures are further refined.

**Hanna Azemati:** Explained that CDSS's housing and homelessness programs track both service connections and outcomes by race, ethnicity, and other characteristics. Acknowledged that homelessness disproportionately affects people of color especially Black and Indigenous populations and shared that programs like Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) and HomeSafe are reaching similar or higher proportions of these groups relative to their focus populations. The Bringing Families Home (BFH) program also shows equitable service to Hispanic and Black children. For the Housing Support Program, more detailed equity data is still being developed, as current analysis relies on aggregate-level data.

**Margot Kushel:** Emphasized the importance of clearly defining comparison groups when discussing equity in programs like HomeSafe. Noted that while the proportion of Black individuals served by HomeSafe is higher than their share of the state population and similar to those served by Adult Protective Services (APS), it's still lower than the proportion of Black individuals experiencing homelessness. Stressed that understanding equity requires thoughtful discussion about which population is being used as the benchmark, whether it's the general population, service users, or those directly impacted by homelessness and urged clarity and consistency in these comparisons.

**Kim Johnson:** Emphasized the need to consider the broader context in which social services programs operate, particularly within the safety net system where disparities and disproportionality already exist. Noted that service access is influenced by these systemic factors and that equity analysis must account for those layers. Highlighted the importance of looking at equity through the lens of funding, referencing tribal set-asides as an example. Suggested the need for a consistent framework to better evaluate equity across programs and understand their full design and impact.

**Marina Wiant:** Raised a question about the sustainability of programs under AB 977, noting that many listed may not receive funding next year. Expressed concern about how this impacts the interpretation of metrics, whether they will simply reflect the continued success of already funded programs or reveal that progress toward goals may stall due to lack of ongoing funding.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Responded that many AB977 programs span multiple years regardless of one-time funding, with some projects funded through 2028. This allows for continued evaluation over the lifespan of the programs, assuming funding commitments remain. Acknowledged concerns about sustainability but emphasized that current funding does support meaningful assessment. Highlighted that quarterly data updates, including demographic breakdowns of exit destinations from AB 977 projects, are being shared with the Council, providing deeper insight into program outcomes.

**Tomiquia Moss:** Asked whether program goals were established before the first year of evaluation results. Raised the issue of determining whether the outcomes being reported are significant enough to justify continued funding, especially given limited resources. Emphasized the importance of defining what success looks like in advance to guide future funding decisions and ensure programs are meeting meaningful benchmarks.

**Lindsay Sin:** Explained that program goals and specific performance measures were established from the outset to evaluate defined outcomes., e Emphasized that the application of equity depends on how well programs understand and define their target populations. Noted that while equity is often discussed in terms of race, it should also account for other factors, such as family composition and gender, particularly in veterans' housing. Highlighted disparities in access for groups like single mothers, often women of color whose needs may not be met due to housing designs not accommodating them. Stressed the importance of tailoring equity efforts to the real needs of specific populations rather than applying the concept too broadly.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Noted that the Council has access to more detailed data and dashboards for AB 977 programs, including breakdowns by household type, age, and veteran status. Offered to return next quarter with a more comprehensive set of graphs and outputs if the Council would find that helpful for deeper analysis and decision-making.

**Susan DeMarois:** Reflected on the discussion around speed related to Goal 5 and questioned whether tracking permits is the most effective measure. Suggested it might be more meaningful to track project completion or occupancy instead, noting that permitted projects can be delayed or never built. Asked if such data is available for more accurate evaluation.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Clarified that in setting the five goals, the Council had to rely on available baseline data, which primarily came from HCD's robust dashboards. Acknowledged the difference between permitted, constructed, and occupied units but emphasized that due to current data access limitations, the Council must stay aligned with the existing goal focused on permitted units.

**Gustavo Velasquez:** Acknowledged that tracking is limited by data availability but agreed that discussing metrics like project completion and occupancy is important. Noted that while data on these measures is less robust and reliable, a future conversation on incorporating them if the opportunity arises is welcomed.

**William McGee:** Expressed interest in the expanded data offering and requested that Cal ICH include information on age, student status, and county-level breakdowns. Hopes to integrate this data with the Homeless Educational Technical Assistance Centers to better understand whether trends among students experiencing homelessness align with what is occurring at the county level for youth.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Explained that the data available in the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) is dependent on what's reported through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which is collected by Continuums of Care (CoCs). Unless a project is specifically coded to identify it as city- or county-level, extracting that detail is difficult. Noted that some CoCs may cover multiple counties, making disaggregation challenging. Stated they can search for projects coded to serve specific populations such as school-age children or education-related efforts though it's unclear if CDE currently has any AB 977-coded projects in the system.

**Veronica Lewis:** Emphasized that age data for both heads of household and children should be available in HMIS and encouraged its use in analysis. Asked CDSS and Cal ICH whether they are tracking cases in which children reunified with families through the Bringing Families Home program end up back in foster care. Highlighted the need to assess data across systems between child welfare and homelessness data to better understand how many youth aging out of foster care are showing up in HMIS due to homelessness. Underscored that this type of cross-system analysis is essential for the Interagency Council on Homelessness to effectively align interventions and resources, especially given the high vulnerability of youth exiting foster care.

**Hanna Azemati:** Noted that this effort is underway. A Business Use Case Plan (BUCP) was finalized last year, and work has since focused on an implementation plan to prioritize data analyses on overlapping populations, such as foster youth experiencing homelessness. However, data system transitions in child welfare must be completed before integration and analysis can move forward, so comprehensive data will take time to become available.

**Veronica Lewis:** Expressed interest in dedicating time during future meetings to explore which data points beyond what's currently in HMIS should be connected to eventually achieve correlated data. Noted that the agencies involved are all touching the lives of people at risk of or experiencing homelessness and believes that better understanding how people interact with multiple systems

either simultaneously or over time will help improve decision-making, maximize investments, and reduce the burden on individuals navigating multiple systems.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Asked what the first steps should be towards aligning reporting requirements, performance metrics, and technical assistance for grantees given the variety of strategic investments in the Action Plan and the legislative requirements from AB 977
- **Tomiquia Moss:** Emphasized the need to streamline affordable housing program applications, noting that developers currently face multiple, disjointed processes. Highlighted ongoing efforts to create a one-stop application system, building on legislative and administrative work to align timelines and requirements. Stressed the importance of understanding how programs overlap in serving individuals, whether the same people are accessing multiple services and suggested analyzing data to clarify these overlaps.
- **Meghan Marshall:** Explained that it is possible to use HDIS data to track how many people are enrolled in AB 977 programs, breaking the data down by household type, such as single adults or heads of households. Noted that the BUCP enables data sharing with CalHHS, allowing comparison with other systems like county behavioral health services. Stated that insights into the number of individuals in HMIS, focusing on the baseline year 2023, can be included in the next quarterly update to show the average number of AB 977 programs individuals engaged with.

**Kim Johnson:** Suggested that the Council track not only what can be answered using the current data sets but also what cannot be answered. Cautioned that evaluating outcomes for individuals with changing needs, such as those with behavioral health or substance use challenges may require more comprehensive data sources beyond what is currently available. Noted that information on youth involved in child welfare and housing programs is still limited. Emphasized the need to identify both desired data and appropriate sources, acknowledging that other data sets may be necessary to fully understand outcomes.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Highlighted the importance of understanding both the strengths and limitations of existing data sources. One of the most well-received presentations to legislators involved explaining what their data can and cannot tell us. No single dataset provides a complete picture, which makes it essential to recognize the value and constraints of each source when interpreting data.

**Hanna Azemati:** Noted the complexity of interpreting data from HDIS, particularly as it intersects with changes in funding. Increases in overlap between systems could indicate either a rise in homelessness or improved service access, while decreases might reflect the loss of one-time funding rather than improved outcomes.

- **Meghan Marshall:** The second year of the Action Plan will focus on evaluating whether strategic investments are advancing the state's overarching goals. The evaluation will look at which program designs are driving success, with the aim of amplifying and potentially replicating those effective approaches across departments and funding streams.

**Dr. Margot Kushel:** Reinforced Azemati's point that increased enrollment in HDIS could reflect either a rise in homelessness or better outreach efforts. Broader national factors such as changes

in federal funding or economic conditions can heavily influence homelessness outcomes in California, even when state programs are effective.

**Michelle Baass:** Shared that DHCS submitted an evaluation report on 14 CalAIM community supports addressing health-related social needs. The evaluation showed that 12 of the 14 supports were cost-effective. Notably, individuals who accessed at least one of the three housing-related supports (transition services, deposits, or tenancy support) experienced a 24.3% reduction in inpatient hospital use and a 13.2% drop in emergency department visits. Housing deposits alone were linked to a 31.6% net cost reduction. This data helps make the case to federal partners for the effectiveness and renewal of CalAIM.

**Tomiquia Moss:** Agreed that it's not just about what's being reported through one data set, but also about incorporating evaluations and other reporting sources. Suggested combining these elements to create a fuller picture of how people are being served and emphasized the importance of telling a more complete story by drawing from multiple data sources and evaluations.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Explained that the Cal ICH Policy team regularly meets with department staff to discuss programs, especially those related to AB 977. Given workforce constraints, it's critical for departments with strategic investments to participate in monthly pre-Council discussions, as they provide valuable insights and help inform Council meetings.

**Dr. Margot Kushel:** Urged the Council to clearly define what data is measured and compared when evaluating outcomes, cautioning that low homelessness rates among prevention service recipients may signal that the highest-risk individuals are being missed. Stressed the need to take strategic risks and serve those most in need, even if short-term results look less favorable. Evaluate what outcomes would have occurred without state programs and communicating this to the public and track metrics like the time from homelessness to service connection to measure early intervention.

**Lindsay Sin:** Emphasized analyzing existing data more deeply rather than just expanding collection. Cross-tabulating current datasets to compare program outcomes and populations served, which could reveal who is being reached, how effectively, and where resources are concentrated. California housed over 1,400 unsheltered veterans, underscoring both progress and complexity. Urged fuller use of HDIS data to examine regional disparities, particularly in underserved areas such as Northern California and tribal communities.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Highlighted the abundance of existing data within the Council. Stressed that grantees should not be burdened with requests for more information when sufficient data already exists. Emphasized aligning funding opportunities with the Council's Action Plan and goals, setting a standard for local jurisdictions managing community funds.

**Erica Pan:** Highlighted the importance of effective communication and restoring trust in public health. Stressed balancing data with storytelling to provide context, especially given federal budget constraints. Emphasized understanding what motivates taxpayers and legislators to support the work, combining both logical data and emotional appeal while acknowledging data limitations.



- **Meghan Marshall:** Highlighted a recently released the [Homeless Emergency and Active Readiness Toolkit \(HEART\)](#), for local emergency management directors. Noted the valuable input from the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) and emphasized the importance of balancing stories with data. Stressed that communication efforts should focus on persuading others outside the Council.

**Susan DeMarois:** Noted that Continuums of Care (CoCs) seem to be a missing link in this work. Acknowledged the value of the lived experience advisory board but expressed concern about the lack of connection with CoCs overall. Suggested hearing directly from select CoCs to understand the disconnect between state and local levels.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Shared that the Council will continue its efforts to include representation from Continuums of Care (CoCs). Also highlighted the significant pressures CoCs are currently facing, particularly uncertainty around their future federal funding opportunities, which impacts their participation.

**Tomiquia Moss:** Suggested the importance of proactively communicating potential risks if funding decreases or disinvestment occurs. Emphasized the need to tell the story about how cuts could worsen homelessness and health outcomes, rather than waiting to respond after negative impacts arise, aiming to manage public expectations and avoid blame.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Noted that social services colleagues have already developed messaging campaigns highlighting potential losses if funding cuts continue. Suggested using these efforts as a foundation for the Council's communication strategy, while balancing the need to inform without causing panic.

**Susan DeMarois:** Highlighted a shift from focusing on problems to seeing solutions, praising the consolidation of key data and program outcomes in one place. Expressed excitement about the progress and suggested creating a fact sheet summarizing key outcomes to aid in public awareness.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Confirmed that creating fact sheets is part of the communication strategy in the Action Plan. Noted limited external affairs staff but emphasized efforts to provide consistent messaging and common language across Council departments to unify communication.

**Ricki Hammett:** Noted that CalOES' nine programs in the Action Plan focus primarily on victim services rather than homelessness metrics. While some programs serve homeless youth, they don't track homelessness data extensively. Agreed that fact sheets from each agency would be helpful but acknowledged data limitations in their area.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Explained that tribal investments are not reflected in current data because tribes are not required to use HMIS due to cost barriers. The same applies to victim services programs. California is working on legislation to set data collection goals and standards to address these gaps in reporting certain populations.

## VIII. General Public Comment

Two public comments submitted before the meeting were offered to Council after the meeting and to the public upon request. The following public comments were made during the meeting:

**Zeke Sandoval:** Associate Director of Public Policy for People Assisting the Homeless (PATH). Since 2023, the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program has served 250,000 Californians helping them to exit homelessness for good. Local governments awarded are not typically the ones administering services, they contract with nonprofits who are often not considered by the administration. Cuts to HHAP are threatening the ability to provide services including shelter beds and encampment resolutions. It is critical that state leadership maintains their commitment by funding this program.

**Lee Pullen:** Director of San Mateo Aging and Disability office. Highlighted impact of Adult Protected Home Stay funded by the state in recent years that have aided goals of aging adults moving out of homelessness, but program is going away. Asked for any influence the Council has, to reinstate this program in the upcoming budget.

**Dez Martinez:** Advocated for people experiencing domestic violence and homelessness who spent a decade working in shelters. Care is more difficult because of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns. Unsheltered deaths due to extreme weather should not be considered normal. Oversight is needed for shelters and transitional homes and grievance committees are needed to ensure accountability. Elderly and disabled individuals should no longer be placed into RRH programs without options for long-term sustainability. Elders should not be given time-limited housing without being given a new voucher. Eviction interventions are needed for this population.

**Teddy Pierce:** CoC consultant working with rural counties. Expressed the need for more technical assistance around measures and understanding HMIS, particularly around move-in date, length of stay and street outreach. The state should help local and rural communities better understand program design and measures overall.

**Shawn Morrissey:** Representing Union Station Homeless Services. Spoke on continued support and protection for HHAP. HHAP is a game-changer; it would be devastating to current system to lose HHAP funding. In LA County, HHAP plays crucial role in reducing homelessness and providing stability for unhoused neighbors. Outreach programs and 10 key sites offered shelter with trauma informed care as a result. Critical housing and staff will be lost if HHAP funding is ended.

**Arianne Dalla Dea:** A lived experience advisor in San Diego. Thanked Council members' effort but questioned the state's austere budget moves. Expressed concern about how CA will fund these programs for the elderly and working homeless. Special populations have specific needs and targeting them is a way to get some quick results. Expressed desire to see how the Council is addressing this.

**Joy Richardson:** Vice President of External Affairs and Communications at St. Josephs Center, a non-profit that provides comprehensive wrap-around services in Southern California. Through HHAP funding, St. Josephs Center was able to assist almost 2,000 households in maintaining housing and preventing homelessness. Rental assistance support would be unsustainable

without HHAP funding. The loss of HHAP funding would jeopardize housing stability of over 2,000 households. Urged HHAP to remain in State budget.

**Ruth:** Homeless in Los Angeles. People are dying on the streets, including seven a day in Los Angeles. Shared experience of a friend trying to buy a home owned by Caltrans, who owns hundreds of homes but is trying to evict him. Expressed concern that he will die on the streets if expelled from his home. Encouraged ethics in data use instead of using data as surveillance. Instead of spending money on software, help people materially.

**Jerry Jones:** Executive Director of the Greater LA Coalition on Homelessness. Spoke on the urgent need for HHAP funding. Urged the Council and those with ability to talk to State Legislature of importance of HHAP Round 7. Requested the State government to spend HHAP in a timelier way. HHAP awards have not been put under contract as quickly as desired, which is ideally the year awards are received. This seems unusual compared to other public funding. We don't want to see a return to episodic funding that is unreliable. We need the State to contract the HHAP resources as they are appropriated, at least in the same year.

**Shannon Murray:** Advocated for reallocation of HHAP funding, critical to addressing homelessness in California. \$329 million of this funding comes into Los Angeles, used to pay for various services including interim housing, outreach, prevention, flexible Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) services and Rapid Rehousing (RRH). The loss of these funds will be detrimental in reducing and ending homelessness. Thousands will be affected by not being able to access services they need or risk losing them. This would affect at least 1,000 people in Watts and surrounding communities. We are asking everyone to talk to your legislatures to reinstate these critical dollars.

## **XI. Final Remarks and Adjournment**

The next Council meeting will be held on September 3, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.