



Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC)

November 30, 2016 Meeting Minutes

MEETING ATTENDEES

- Becca Bettis, Volunteers of America Veterans Services*
- Isaac Blackstock, Yolo Community Care Continuum
- Tom Cashman, Catholic Charities
- Kristen Cline, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency
- Tracey Dickinson, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency
- Robin Frank, Yolo County Children's Alliance
- Ginger Hashimoto, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency
- Irma Jimenez-Perez, Yolo Housing
- Dan Maguire, City of Winters*
- Holly Martin, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency/211 Yolo
- Alysa Meyer, Legal Services of Northern California*
- Niomi Michel, Empower Yolo**
- James McLeod, Yolo Community Care Continuum**
- Joan Planell, City of Davis*
- Bill Pride, Davis Community Meals*
- Martha Teeter, Davis Opportunity Village
- Katherine Rodriguez, CommuniCare Health Centers/SMART-Y Program
- Mark Sawyer, City of West Sacramento Police Department
- Dan Sokolow, City of Woodland*
- Nolan Sullivan, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency
- Holly Wunder Stiles, Mutual Housing California
- Katy Zane, Short Term Emergency Aid Committee*
- Doug Zeck, Fourth and Hope*

**Indicates a primary voting designee*

***Indicates a secondary voting designee*

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

HPAC approved the agenda with no amendments.

- **Motion:** Dan Sokolow
- **Second:** Alysa Meyer

2. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM 10.26.16

HPAC approved the meeting minutes with an amendment to add Holly Martin's name to the list of attendees and remove Kim Heuvelhorst's name.

- **Motion:** Bill Pride



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- **Second:** Dan Sokolow

3. WELCOME TO OUR 2017 OFFICERS

HPAC welcomed its 2017 officers including Doug Zeck as Chair, Michele Kellogg as Vice Chair, and Ginger Hashimoto as Secretary.

4. INTRODUCTIONS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

- Tom Cashman shared that his nonprofit, Catholic Charities, recently expanded its service area to include Yolo County. Formerly, Catholic Charities served only Solano County. At present in Solano County, Catholic Charities provides food assistance, mental health services, immigration services, and older adult services. Tom underscored that Catholic Charities does not want to duplicate already existing services, but rather fill gaps in the current continuum.
- Martha Teeter announced that she is representing a newly formed nonprofit called Davis Opportunity Village (DOV). DOV will focus on advocating for services and housing for people experiencing homelessness in Davis.
- Irma Jimenez-Perez announced that Yolo County Housing (YCH) plans to open its Housing Choice Voucher waitlist on January 9, 2017 through January 19, 2017. She warned that the list might close earlier depending on how many applications they receive. YCH will only accept online applications. Irma also announced that the Willow Creek Housing waitlist is set to open on December 8, 2016 and close on December 20, 2016 for median to moderate-income levels. YCH will grant preference to Yolo County residents, families, and head of households with disabilities.
- Alysa Meyer shared that Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) will no longer be offering consumer assistance at its courthouse clinic. Instead, LSNC will offer small claims, small estate, and guardianship assistance twice a month. LSNC will continue to offer consumer assistance at its office. Alysa also reminded attendees there are multiple restrictions that significantly limit the people who qualify for rapid re-housing and homeless prevention assistance. Therefore, she asked that people refrain from advising clients that they are good candidates when making referrals so as not to disappoint them. She also emphasized that there are only \$25,000 allocated toward homeless prevention and LSNC anticipates serving 20 households. The clients must have received a notice to terminate tenancy or an unlawful detainer. LSNC is in the process of assisting their first household using the funds.
- Mark Sawyer shared that the West Sacramento Police Department created a motel taskforce and completed a comprehensive survey of motel occupants to assess their needs. In collaboration with Housing Now, Mark has successfully housed about seven motel occupants with several more permanent housing placements pending.
- Katy Zane announced that the Short Term Emergency Aid Committee (STEAC) adopted 365 families this year for their holiday program and will be distributing the gifts in early December.
- James McLeod shared that two of Yolo Community Care Continuum's SHP houses are for sale.



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- Joan Planell shared that the City of Davis is set to receive a \$232,000 grant from Sutter Health. The grant will include an employment component, a robust case management component, and a transitional rental assistance component to bridge the gap from the New Pathways home until clients can secure permanent housing.
- Nolan Sullivan shared that the CalWORKs Housing Support Program will reopen tomorrow. The program has \$132,000 per month to spend on rapid re-housing/emergency motel stays for CalWORKs eligible families. With its re-open, the program is instituting several changes including a two-month maximum for motel stays. The program is also using the VI-SPDAT to prioritize acceptance into the program. Nolan also announced that the County purchased 65 homeless packs filled with cold weather supplies such as a coat, down sleeping bag, tarp, gloves, bicycle lock, and toiletry kits. The recipients must go to the service centers to get them and the recipients must meet Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) criteria as well as complete an affidavit.
- Dan Maguire announced that the City of Winters is accepting applications for seven affordable housing units.
- Dan Sokolow shared that the City of Woodland has a first-time homebuyers program and closed a home last month.
- Tracey Dickinson announced that while she will continue serving as the County's Homeless Program Coordinator, she will also be taking on new responsibilities as the Health and Human Services Agency's communications and strategy manager.

5. UPDATE ON HUD EQUAL ACCESS AND GENDER IDENTITY RULES

Ginger Hashimoto explained that back in September, HUD published a final rule to the Federal Register entitled "Equal Access in Accordance with an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs."

- In summary, this rule requires providers to allow all individuals, including transgender individuals and other individuals who do not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth, with access to programs in accordance with their gender identity without being subjected to intrusive questioning or being asked to provide documentation.
- HUD's new rule also requires providers to establish, amend, or maintain program admissions, occupancy, and operating policies and procedures (including policies and procedures to protect individuals' privacy and security), so that equal access is provided to individuals based on their gender identity.
- To further assist providers to comply with this new rule, HUD published several resources including a glossary of several terms and definitions related to gender identity. HUD encourages providers to educate their staff on these terms and use them as the situation arises.

6. HMIS AND AHAR UPDATE

Ginger Hashimoto shared that last week, HUD released Part 1 of the 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). She explained that the report details the findings of the 2016 PIT and HIC counts, including



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estimates for homeless veterans, unaccompanied youth, families with children, individuals, and chronically homeless persons.

- In general, part 1 of the 2016 AHAR showed promising progress in our nation's efforts to end homelessness.
- PIT estimates show declines across all homeless subpopulations, with the largest decline seen in numbers of homeless veterans.
- The numbers for chronic homelessness highlight the vulnerability of this group, as this is the only subpopulation with more people unsheltered than sheltered.
- While some deadlines will need to be readjusted regarding the goals outlined in Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, huge steps have been taken to prevent and end homelessness across the country.

She continued to explain that in Yolo County, she is in the process of finalizing our 14 AHAR reports, which will be used for Part 2 of the 2016 AHAR report to Congress. So far, HUD accepted one report has been accepted (TH individuals) and rejected two reports due to low HMIS bed coverage rates (ES families and PSH individuals). Yolo's primary issues with the AHAR have to do with low bed utilization rates of at or near 65% as well as missing Housed with service placement.

7. HPAC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Tracey Dickinson explained that the HPAC Policies and Procedures Subcommittee developed an election section and a HUD gender identity section. Tracey asked the body to approve the two added sections and officially adopt it as part of HPAC's policies and procedures manual.

- **Motion:** Dan Maguire
- **Second:** Bill Pride

8. 2017 HOMELESS COUNT SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Tracey Dickinson updated HPAC on the progress of its 2017 Homeless Count Subcommittee. Tracey explained that the subcommittee agreed to use the same organizational structure as 2015 and appointed the following people to serve in leadership positions:

- Count Coordinator: Tracey Dickinson
- Davis Lead: Bill Pride
- West Sacramento Lead: Mark Sawyer
- Woodland Lead: Amara Pickens
- Winters/Rural Lead: TBD

In addition, the group established a Training and Communications Subcommittee to create training materials and talking points to ensure consistent protocols and messaging.



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9. MEETING EVALUATION: PLUS/DELTA/FUTURE TOPICS

Pluses

- Timing
- Spacious room
- Relevant updates
- Good information

Deltas

- Difficult to hear speakers
- Speakers should speak slower

Future Topics

- Housing California and/or other affordable housing developers
- Trauma informed care/resiliency training
- Drug medi-cal update
- Presidential election impact