

Board of Directors —Special Meeting

Minutes of April 3, 2020, at 8 a.m.

Virtual meeting



Notice: This special meeting of the SJCoC Board of Directors was called in accordance with Section VIII, Part E of the SJCoC Charter by Chair Jon Mendelson to facilitate needed coordination and action regarding the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Call to Order

8:01a

Roll Call

Jon Mendelson, John Ledbetter, Adam Cheshire, Carrie Wright, Kate Hutchinson, Matt Garber, Edward Figueroa, Bill Mendelson, Mike Kelly, Jenn Rowell; joining at 8:04 were Randy Pinnelli, Britton Kimball, and Peter Ragsdale

Minutes

Minutes from the March 27, 2020, special meeting were approved without amendment. Motion by Bill Mendelson. Second by John Ledbetter. Approved 10-0.

Public Comment

None

Discussion, Information and Action Items

Critical Updates on Efforts to Obtain Shelter/Housing/Services in Response to COVID-19

- Jon Mendelson discussed the background of these efforts;
- Carrie Wright mentioned efforts by the City to engage local CBOs with support for services; recapped goals for SB89 funds, including Project Roomkey, portable handwashing stations; discussed trailer placement; mentioned that the City will be restructuring their process for encampment sweeps; talked about partnership with United Way; pilot program for rental assistance with CVLIHC;
- Adam Cheshire discussed the County's process to stand up a motel for Project Roomkey; Mike Kelly asked if folks from outside Stockton will be able to enter the motel, Adam answered yes; Adam discussed the HHAP award letter; also discussed the fairgrounds agreement;

- Jon Mendelson asked Kayce Rayne to provide a report on the data collection process for Project Roomkey; Kayce gave a recap on the background of the project, individuals being targeted, goals of the project in relation to data collection, protocols for screening symptomatic clients, challenges of front-line screening at shelters, results and next steps following a positive screening, the role of CMC and Randy Pinnelli including a mobile clinic at the motel; Randy discussed the plan for screening process at shelters; the plans and goals for the mobile clinic; Kayce continued on to discuss the role of the HMIS in these processes; discussed possibilities to get folks from outside Stockton into the motel; Jon asked who is identified to conduct screenings: Kayce answered no one yet but in process; discussed the role of the CoC in supporting the efforts; John Ledbetter asked about transportation: Kayce stated it was available County-wide;
- Jon Mendelson noted that the HMIS should be looped in as soon as possible; Bill Mendelson clarified the need to understand and report the results of the screening, and mentioned that increased costs for the system will need to be considered;
- John Ledbetter asked about the referral process: Kayce Rayne indicated that the individual must be cleared by a medical partner as being “high-risk”; Carrie Wright asked Kayce to define a medical partner: Kayce answered that local hospitals and CMC will be partners;

Strategic Planning: Guidance from State of California Regarding Funds to be Spent in Response to COVID-19

- Adam Cheshire provided a recap of State guidance for using HHAP funds to respond to COVID-19, and mentioned that the State’s guidance was to stick to the plans but find ways to do both if possible

CESH Round 2 Spending Priorities and Applications in Response to COVID-19

- Jon Mendelson asked Adam Cheshire to discuss the County’s (as the program’s Administrative Entity) possible changed goals for use of CESH: Adam mentioned that it was discussed previously and the County decided to continue with the CESH disbursement along current priorities given the late stage of the CESH process and need to quickly disburse funds;
- Peter Ragsdale stated that CESH seems like a good source for funding for the motels;
- Bill Mendelson pointed out that funds will be available that have not yet been earmarked that could be used instead of CESH;
- Jon Mendelson stated that he was supportive of the County’s approach regarding CESH; asked for general consensus;
- John Ledbetter stated that he generally agreed that we can’t step too far back from the long term goals, but it will be important to stay flexible;

The SJCoC Board approved through unanimous consent the County’s approach to disbursing CESH funds.

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Spending Priorities in Response to COVID-19

- Jon Mendelson asked the Board to determine possible recommendations for COVID-19 response using HHAP; mentioned his ideas for alterations to the priority areas in light of the current crisis;

- Carrie Wright stated that she felt that funding gaps in the system were still the priority;
- Adam Cheshire discussed the process from project solicitation to fund provision; Jon asked for suggestions from the Board to expedite the process;
- Peter Ragsdale stated that it will be a missed opportunity to move too slowly in light of the crisis;
- Edward Figueroa agreed that funds should be available as quickly as possible, and commented that he hoped long term goals were being served with the processes and priorities of these funds;
- Jon Mendelson favors the HHAP funds used strategically for long term community benefit and wants to create an expedited process;
- Peter Ragsdale reiterated that the urgency cannot be overstated, not just in relation to COVID-19 but with the long term goals, and cautioned against sacrificing the good for the perfect;
- Edward Figueroa stated that potential new homeless as a result of the crisis should be considered, including planning for additional demand in the system;
- Jon Mendelson summarized the Board's discussion, and there was general agreement that while acting in an expedited fashion can mean some trade-offs, the risk of inaction is greater.

The SJCoC Board approved through unanimous consent expediting the HHAP application process.

Additional Items and Updates

- Jon Mendelson mentioned that an expansion of Emergency Solutions Grants funds will need to be planned around;
- Carrie Wright asked that at the next meeting the Board discuss next steps for the Strategic Plan;

Adjournment

Adjourned at 9:27 a.m. Motion by John Ledbetter. Second by Edward Figueroa. Approved 13-0.

Next meeting

8 a.m. April 10, 2020

Board Membership: Adam Cheshire, Edward Figueroa, Matt Garber, Kate Hutchinson, Sgt. Mike Kelly, Britton Kimball, John Ledbetter (vice chair), Bill Mendelson, Jon Mendelson (chair), Randy Pinnelli P.A. (secretary), Peter Ragsdale, Jennifer Rowell

Minutes: Adam Cheshire and Jon Mendelson