

Board of Directors —Special Meeting

Minutes of April 10, 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

8:01 a.m.

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 April 3, 2020, special meeting were approved without amendment. Motion by Bill Mendelson. Second by Carrie Wright. Approved 10-0.

Public Comment

Johanna Pereria: Request for Proposal for a heating/cooling center to be sent to the General Membership; Jon Mendelson invited the RFQ to be sent to him or Adam Cheshire for distribution.

Discussion, Information and Action Items

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

- Adam Cheshire gave an update on Project Roomkey, including a deal that did not come to fruition to lease a large motel for Non-Congregate Shelter; John Ledbetter asked for number of rooms: 141 in previous facility; Bill Mendelson asked for details of why the process failed; Jon Mendelson asked Adam to describe any potential opportunity for support from the SJCoC or if the County was asking for any specific support, Adam stated he will relay those but for now the support financially and through the HMIS has been essential;

San Joaquin Continuum of Care Board of Directors Meeting 4-10-2020

- Carrie Wright discussed the disbursement of \$1.2 million in Stockton general funds; discussed the restrooms and hand washing stations; discussed the trailers to be placed at the fairgrounds; working on additional funding prospects through HHAP and CARES/ESG; CARES needs to be disbursed sooner than HHAP;
- Jon Mendelson asked Carrie Wright if there are asks for the SJCoC from City of Stockton: Carrie discussed the possibilities in terms of reducing density in the shelters and support for that process; Edward Figueroa asked about possible use of the Stockton Arena for NCS: Carrie mentioned the Civic Auditorium or the Fairgrounds, discussed the challenges around services and the OES mission tasking process; Adam Cheshire highlighted that the County is struggling with the same challenges around service provision;
- John Ledbetter asked if there have been any confirmed cases of COVID-19 from folks on the street: Matt indicated no;
- Jon Mendelson highlighted that typically a tent city would not be a viable solution to homelessness, but is something we are considering because of the epidemiological implications;
- Randy Pinnelli reported no cases of COVID-19 among the homeless he was aware of; discussed the team doing screening at Stockton Shelter as well as encampments;
- Jon Mendelson asked for an update from JoLyn McMillan: JoLyn discussed County services at SSH to provide the screening which will include HMIS;

No Board action taken.

Public Alert Protocol for COVID-19

- Jon Mendelson provided background on the process for HMIS entry and protocols;
- Randy Pinnelli mentioned that 14 days should be extended, stated that 6 weeks would be safer given what is known about the ability of COVID-19 to be transmitted outside the 14 day period;
- Bill Mendelson mentioned that from the HMIS perspective there would not be a problem extending the time;
- Jenn Rowell commented that she had concerns that a Public Alert would stop folks from getting services out of fear, worried about folks being turned away rather than re-directed;
- Jon Mendelson mentioned the flexibility built into the process which hopefully address these concerns;
- Randy Pinnelli stated that until there are places for the homeless to isolate, turning someone away who is suspected is essential to maintain the health of individuals in shelters, housing facilities, etc.;
- Bill Mendelson mentioned that he would like to see changes related to indicate that the HMIS Lead Agency is not conducting training for COVID-19 screening, but can certainly train on HMIS use specifically;
- Carrie Wright stated that this is not a public health document, and the title Public Alert could be concerning/confusing; Jon Mendelson mentioned that "Public Alert" was language from the HMIS; Randy Pinnelli mentioned that it was set up for TB primarily, Bill Mendelson added that it could be used for anything, such as alerting other HMIS-participant agencies to help find an individual who has been approved for a housing unit;

San Joaquin Continuum of Care Board of Directors Meeting 4-10-2020

- Jon Mendelson requested a motion to adopt the protocol with the 6 week change and flexibility to adjust language to clarify service provision.

The Board approved the Public Alert Protocol for COVID-19. Motion by Carrie Wright. Second by Bill Mendelson. Approved 13-0. Jon Mendelson directed to send out with changes following the meeting.

Emergency Solutions Grants Recommendations for Strategic Use

- Jon Mendelson provided background on the CARES Act, its making available additional ESG funding, and the process to develop the suggestions for ESG funding priorities provided by Jon to the Board;
- John Ledbetter asked for examples of congregate vs. non-congregate shelter, Bill Mendelson provided examples;
- Edward Figueroa stated that he would like to see flexibility for support agencies like St. Mary's and not just shelter providers;
- Jon Mendelson stated that closer examination of eligible uses for ESG would be prudent to determine some of this strategy, including whether subrecipients could subcontract for services using ESG funds;
- Bill Mendelson mentioned that in the CARES Act there is a significant amount of funds for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program which could provide funding for organizations like St. Mary's if those critical services couldn't be funded through ESG;
- Carrie Wright mentioned that Community Development Block Grant funds which are also being expanded could potentially fund some of the categories, and Bill Mendelson stated that the 15% cap on support services was lifted in the CARES Act CDBG allocation, allowing recipient bodies the ability to fund more services;
- Jon Mendelson stated that at the least, disbursements of ESG should happen quickly and allow for reimbursement from previous costs;
- Bill Mendelson commented that he would like to see more emphasis from the County to support agencies outside of Stockton;
- Edward Figueroa stated that more than geographic preference he would like to see funds go to projects that are ready to move forward and spend down funds;
- Carrie Wright suggested that the CoC recommend the County and City coordinate for this source of funds

The Board adopted Emergency Solutions Grants Recommendations for Strategic Use to be sent to the City of Stockton and San Joaquin County, with encouragement to the City and County to collaborate in strategic allocation of the funds. Motion by Carrie Wright. Second by Bill Mendelson

John Ledbetter asked about last year's allocations and the process to apply, Jon Mendelson explained those details; John then asked how was the award made and Bill explained how the decisions were made, which did not always include priorities or strategic alignment; Edward Figueroa added that typically these funds are limited which makes the potential impact limited, and

San Joaquin Continuum of Care Board of Directors Meeting 4-10-2020

reiterated that these funds should go to the front line organizations doing the work regardless of geographic representation; Jon called for a roll call vote:

- John Ledbetter: yes
- Adam Cheshire: yes
- Pete Ragsdale: yes
- Kate Hutchinson: yes
- Matt Garber: yes
- Britton Kimball: yes
- Randy Pinnelli: yes
- Edward Figueroa: yes
- Bill Mendelson: yes
- Mike Kelly: yes
- Jenn Rowell: yes
- Jon Mendelson: yes

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

- Jon Mendelson discussed the process up to now, including the application and website development process, and suggested that if the originally proposed local NOFA process was taking too long that the Board should push for an expedited process to get HHAP funds out as quickly as possible; Carrie Wright mentioned that Stockton IT was having an issue, and are currently more focused on other funding sources, and that her relevant staff is committed currently to the EOC; Carrie also discussed the original direction she was getting from city leadership regarding the desire for the Strategic Plan on Homelessness to be completed prior to local allocation of HHAP funds; Adam Cheshire discussed the possibilities related to moving forward and offered to work with Carrie to develop an updated process;
- Peter Ragsdale updated the group on the strategic planning process, targeting a draft to approve in late May;
- John Ledbetter commented that because of COVID-19 the priorities have changed but it will be important to implement funds as quickly as possible and limit barriers to that haste;
- Bill Mendelson mentioned that HHAP had to be obligated by May 2023;
- Peter Ragsdale stated that any allocations could be accelerated for implementation, and asked if the SJCoC could decide to move ahead with a local NOFA for HHAP funds on its own if processes with the City and County are slower; Jon Mendelson stated the Board has the ability to do that, but that it could undermine the collaborative effort undertaken so far and could limit applicants' ability to request funding from multiple entities for a single project.
- Adam Cheshire and Carrie Wright asked for additional time to determine an updated process and come back to the Board

The Board approved additional time to determine and updated process for opening a local NOFA for HHAP funds by unanimous consent.

San Joaquin Continuum of Care Board of Directors Meeting 4-10-2020

Additional Items and Updates

- Jon Mendelson mentioned that the deadline set up by the SJCoC for agencies to apply for SB 89 funding is today, and discussed the need to schedule a special meeting for early next week to review and approve applications; Adam Cheshire discussed the applicants; Jon committed to sending a Doodle poll for a potential meeting as early as possible to expedite the award process, while keeping the regular Friday meeting as the backup;

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.. Motion by Bill Mendelson. Second by Mike Kelly. Approved 13-0.