

Board of Directors — Special Meeting

Nov. 18, 2020, at 3 p.m.

Virtual meeting



Notice: This special meeting of the SJCoC Board of Directors is called in accordance with the SJCoC Charter.

Location Notice: Because of guidance from public health officials, this meeting is being conducted virtually. Log-in information is distributed to the SJCoC General Membership.

Log-In Information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86030130398?pwd=V25xYmZOVndiZFpxQ3FEbzFUMERQZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 3013 0398

Passcode: 407861

Dial by your location

- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
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Meeting ID: 860 3013 0398

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Call to Order

3 p.m. Nov. 18, 2020

Roll Call

Roll call for: Adam Cheshire, Edward Figueroa, Matt Garber, Kate Hutchinson, Mike Kelly, Britton Kimball, John Ledbetter, Bill Mendelson, Randy Pinnelli, Peter Ragsdale, Jenn Rowell, Carrie Wright, Jon Mendelson

Minutes

1. Minutes from 11-12-2020 regular meeting
 - a. Minutes — “Attachment 1”

Public Comment

1. Public Comment on issues that appear on the 11-18-20 agenda

Discussion, Information, and Action Items

1. Point in Time Count update

Guidance from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development has been issued regarding the 2021 Point in Time Count of the Homeless. The guidance states, in part:

HUD will allow CoCs to request an exception to some or all of the unsheltered PIT count requirements. CoCs can request an exception to only conduct a head count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (i.e., not data collection on demographics, subpopulation, or household characteristics) or to collect some but not all of the data elements HUD has required in the past count. CoCs that cannot conduct the full 2021 unsheltered PIT count must submit a request for an exception to William Snow (William.Snow@hud.gov) that describes:

1. Why the CoC cannot conduct a full unsheltered PIT count,
2. Whether the CoC is requesting an exception to some or all of the requirements of the unsheltered PIT count;
3. If the CoC is conducting a count, what exactly will be included in the count (e.g., a head count only); and
4. Other efforts they are taking to understand the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their community.

CoCs do NOT need to submit an exception request if they plan on submitting the full unsheltered PIT count data but are changing their methodology. For example, if a CoC is shifting to an observation-based count or is changing their sampling methods, the CoC does not need to request an exception.

While our SJCoC's efforts to prepare for the PiT Count of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homeless have been under way for several months, obstacles remain to conducting a meaningful count.

San Joaquin County is headed toward more restrictive public health measures. This will make it difficult if not impossible to replicate the methodology of the 2019 PiT Count, which relied on in-person interviews of homeless and potentially homeless individuals to provide an accurate count, as well as accurate demographic information. Changes to the methodology will likely result in significant changes to the resulting data, which could render comparisons between 2019 and 2021 difficult or impossible.

Gathering accurate and meaningful data that can be compared to previous counts — and that can therefore provide us meaningful information about the state of homelessness in this community — is the top priority of the SJCoC when it comes to the conduct of PiT Counts. This is especially the case since funding from the State of California is increasingly linked to our PiT Count totals.

Given that changes to Count methodology resulting from public health conditions make it unlikely that any data gathered during a PiT Count can be accurately compared to previous counts, it is the considered opinion of the HMIS Lead Agency and the Collaborative Applicant that the SJCoC should request an exception to the unsheltered component of the 2021 PiT Count — with the contingency that doing so will not negatively impact the SJCoC's ability to obtain homeless assistance funds from the State of California.

In terms of “other efforts”: An in-depth survey conducted by the Shelter Committee in partnership with the District Attorney’s Office could be aligned with the traditional PiT Count time window to provide some data regarding the unsheltered population, even though it would not be directly comparable to previous PiT Count efforts and will likely not be able to be entered into the HMIS because of its anonymous nature. Other efforts that could be undertaken to understand the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness could include conducting a limited number of PiT Count Unsheltered Homeless surveys , or conducting additional outreach efforts by professional outreach workers during the traditional PiT Count time window.

Local PiT committees would be free to continue with their outreach and count efforts, although any data gathered would be reserved for local use and not submitted to HUD. The HMIS Lead Agency is prepared to offer technical assistance and support to these efforts.

Recommended action: Apply for a full exception to the 2021 Point in Time Count of the Unsheltered Homeless, contingent upon confirmation from the State that an exception will not reduce opportunities for future funding.

- a. [HUD guidance is provided as “Attachment 2”](#)

Additional Items and Updates

Adjournment

Next meeting

11 a.m. Dec. 10, 2020 (regular Board meeting)

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., Peter Ragsdale, Jennifer Rowell

Minutes: Adam Cheshire