

San Joaquin Continuum of Care General Membership Meeting 2-25-2021

Call to Order

9:02a

Welcome and Order of Meeting

Minutes from Meeting of January 28, 2021

- Edward Figueroa mentioned that the minutes mentioned conducting the next PIT count in 2021 rather than 2022: Jon and Bill Mendelson indicated that 2021 was referring to the sheltered count; Bill also provided some background on the process to waive the 2021 unsheltered count; Adam acknowledged that the minutes needed to be amended per Edward's suggestion;
- Jon moved to approve as amended, Bill second, unanimous

Discussion, Information and Action Items

Reports from the SJCoC Board of Directors

- Voted Kristen Birtwhistle in as Vice-Chair
 - Kristen mentioned that she was pleased to be participating in the CoC;
- Voted in Melinda Ramirez to the Board of Directors, filling the vacancy left by Britton Kimball
 - Jenn asked Melinda to introduce herself
 - Melinda introduced herself and provided information on her background regarding lived experience of homelessness, as well as her role employed with Salvation Army; mentioned her background participating in the Task Force and CoC
- Discussed changing the CoC Charter to (1) create a new board office position: Immediate Past Chair and (2) to state that the individual serving as Vice-Chair would become the Board Chair in the year following their Vice-Chair term. No action was taken.
 - Jenn provided background on the conversation regarding this item and the challenges involved in accommodating these suggestions;

Updates on Point in Time Count

- Bill stated that the HMIS Lead is continuing to collect information for the sheltered PIT count submission for 2021; the process and some challenges to get information from the operators in the Manteca area, and highlighted those in relation to the warming center; stated that a representative from FIX'D would be speaking with HMIS Lead later in the day;
- Jenn asked about data collected regarding Project Roomkey; Bill and Jon described the process and challenges in entering data around these non-congregate shelter facilities;

Update on CoC Program Competition

- Jenn asked Adam to provide an update on the process to date
- Adam stated that the System Performance and Evaluation Committee has completed its reallocation review, and that the Committee will be voting to forward the updated Letter of Interest for the FY 2021 Program Competition to the Board of Directors for approval at the next meeting;

San Joaquin Continuum of Care General Membership Meeting 2-25-2021

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

- Randy Pinnelli provided a brief overview of the process for CMC to vaccinate the homeless; Project Roomkey vaccinated 30 and will follow up on second dose; mentioned the Johnson and Johnson one dose vaccine and when we might expect to have that available in San Joaquin County;

Committee Updates

- Data and HMIS: Bill stated that the Committee are asking for a review of the policies and procedures; a suggestion that for 2022 there be some type of unsheltered count; Jon mentioned delays in the process to develop a Data Dashboard and the intention and process to finalize that report as soon as possible;
- Coordinated Entry: Matt Garber provided an update as to the development of a CES manual as well as the discussions around the role of FRRC in the CES going forward
- Education and Membership: Russ discussed the Committees process to meet with local elected officials to discuss the CoC and its work; mentioned the process to develop and post on the website Success Stories, and the next steps for those related to individual client-level stories;
- Resource Development: none
- System Performance and Evaluation: Jon mentioned that the reallocation review is going forward and should have completed results at the next meeting;
- Strategic Planning: Carrie stated that meeting time changed to first Wednesday at 3:30p; next meeting March 3 at 3:30p; requested information from Homebase regarding possible additional TA around the strategic plan;
- Emergency Shelter: Kristen provided an update as to the most recent meeting of the Committee and introduced the next item under Presentations; mentioned she would be stepping down as Chair of the Committee and replaced by Natascha Garcia and Edward Figueroa as Co-Chairs, effective TBA;

Presentations

Presentations from City Partners on Shelter Expansions

- City of Tracy Assistant City Manager Midori Lichtwardt presented regarding emergency housing initiatives in the Tracy area including a warming center and a new emergency shelter; described the role of FIX'D in the operation of the warming center, in a newly renovated Community Center; described the process and challenges in developing a Tracy specific homelessness strategic plan, and the new shelter; described the proposed facilities for the new shelter; described the proposed services to be provided at the new shelter; mentioned an upcoming report to the City Council regarding the shelter; stated the need for additional funding for the project and the process to seek that funding;
- Kristen asked about pets: Midori stated that pets will be included in the model in order to make the project as low-barrier as possible;
- Kristen introduced Kathryn Siddle from the Lodi Committee on Homelessness (LCOH);

San Joaquin Continuum of Care General Membership Meeting 2-25-2021

- Kathryn mentioned the change in leadership of the LCOH and the process to re-establish leadership; discussed their efforts at community outreach around winter shelter; described the Harmony Homes project and the process and discussions around that project;
- Jennifer Rhyne discussed further details of the facilities, services, and funding for Harmony Homes; the community engagement process around the project;
- Jenn mentioned the connection between these projects and the execution of the strategic plan throughout the San Joaquin County community;
- Edward asked Midori regarding a projected number of clients following the end of the pandemic: Midori indicated that a figure was not available but perhaps an additional 20 – 30 could be housed under non-pandemic conditions;

Updates, Comments and Announcements from General Membership

- Yvonne Derby announced the expansion of Berkeley Food and Housing, and introduced new hire Nicole Barber, and described their SSVF program;
- Bill stated that as new programs come online, those programs must reach out to the HMIS Lead;
- Venus mentioned the need for more rehabilitation programs and asked if anyone was working on something like that; mentioned that she was disappointed in the stagnation of services at shelters over the last 40 years; John Narvaez mentioned that Salvation Army has a well-utilized rehabilitation program and encouraged folks to reach out;
- John Narvaez stated that he was pleased to see the smaller cities in the County getting more involved in homeless services and the expansion of shelter and other projects;
- Doug Kuehne stated that increases in homelessness can be attributed in part to a reduction in penalties for certain crimes and the early release of criminals from jail; reiterated John Narvaez's comments regarding the impact of Salvation Army's service in the City of Lodi; discussed the fear that local shelters will pull the homeless from other communities, and stated that the way to combat that was to have shelters in each community;
- Supervisor Patti stated that in San Diego it did not result in attracting new homeless to the community and had the opposite effect; mentioned that the Salvation Army in Modesto could serve as a model for San Joaquin County; mentioned a 2x2x2 meeting the first of which occurred the day before, meeting to discuss how to integrate all of the pipeline programs to "do more, for more, with more, much to the shock, dismay and resistance of many individuals attending today's meeting"; stated the strategic plan is not set in stone and should be updated or changed;
- Venus responded reiterating the need for new programs and apologized if she came across as "antagonistic" but continued that 30 year old programs are insufficient for today's needs; stated her concern around the lack of innovation of services; stated that providing a home is easy, but changing minds is hard; described her lived experience of homelessness; Jenn encouraged Venus to participate in the Shelter Committee, and Venus was amenable;
- Doug stated in regard to new programs that Ready to Work was a new program doing good work, and mentioned several aspects of the program; mentioned the de-funding of California mental health facilities in the 1970s and the challenges related to homelessness connected to that act;

San Joaquin Continuum of Care General Membership Meeting 2-25-2021

- France Hutchins stated that SJC BHS is working to provide housing for their homeless clients and making strides with partners such as CVLIHC, HACSJ, and SSHH; mentioned the improved outcomes in wait times; invited Doug to reach out to learn more;
- Randy stated that CMC has services for those in the mild – moderate range to enhance and supplement the BHS focus on those who are severe and persistent; stated that homelessness is an issue of housing, and stable housing is the key to successful outcomes related to mental health treatment for the homeless;

Adjournment

- 10:35a