

San Joaquin Continuum of Care General Membership Meeting 7-22-2021

Call to Order

9:02a

Welcome and Order of Meeting

Minutes from Meeting of June 24, 2021

- Adam Cheshire moved; Kristen Birtwhistle seconded; unanimous, no abstentions;

Discussion, Information and Action Items

Reports from the SJCoC Board of Directors: Kirsten Birtwhistle provided a brief update on each item below

- Established Ad Hoc Point in Time Count Committee
 - Kristen Birtwhistle mentioned that the Committee has not yet met; will be relying heavily upon the previous work of Adam Cheshire and Jon Mendelson;
 - Melinda Ramirez asked about the way the Count was broken up into geographic sub-committees, and Adam and Jon provided details regarding the strategies;
- Established a Youth Action Board and expedited voting to add the YAB to the SJCoC charter at the July SJCoC General Meeting.
- Discussed continuing to keep SJCoC Board Meetings virtual and to continue to meet monthly. SJCoC General Membership meetings to move to a quarterly schedule with in-person meetings, with the understanding that additional meetings could be called if needed.
 - Jenn Rowell provided an update of the discussion around this change; discussed the benefits of virtual meetings; mentioned that the next meeting of the General Membership will be in person, assuming it will be safe and that a large enough space will be available;

Updates on Point in Time Count

- Jenn Rowell asked for any additional information or discussion, none forthcoming;

Committee Updates

- Data and HMIS: Bill Mendelson discussed the work with BitFocus to develop processes for disseminating HMIS data; mentioned the potential for funding for PIT Count activities; Jon reiterated the role of the Board of Directors in evaluating the HMIS Lead Agency;
- Coordinated Entry: Matt Garber stated that the meeting earlier in the week focused on further edits to the Policies and Procedures document, and the Committee will hold a special meeting next week to hopefully complete that process; discussed thoughts from the Committee to merge with the Data and HMIS Committee and the suggestion that a better approach might be for members to participate on both Committees;
- Education and Membership: Russ Hayward talked about the discussions around next steps for the Committee connected to improving the CoC's external communication efforts, for example the sharing of minutes from each Committee on a shared platform such as GoogleDocs; Kristen asked about the timeline for a Board retreat; Adam reiterated that the contract negotiations are ongoing;

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- System Performance and Evaluation: Kate Hutchinson mentioned the anticipated CoC Program Competition NOFA; stated that the Committee was looking for non-conflicted participants to review applications;
- Strategic Planning: Carrie Wright noted that HUD seems extremely backlogged in terms of reporting which may indicate delays in the NOFA release; discussed the Strategic Planning Committee's initiative to make changes to Committee structures; mentioned additional conversations around a Housing Committee, and stated that there was broad consensus around the need for such a committee; answered Jenn's question regarding how the Homebase contract will be coordinated, stating that she was unsure but that there were certain components that were applicable to various Committees, and stated that she would arrange a meeting with the County to discuss next steps;
- Shelter: Edward Figueroa stated that there was no update;
- Ad-Hoc 2x2x2: Peter Ragsdale provided a synopsis of the meeting which focused primarily on the Stockton shelter project lead by the County, as well as a discussion of funding and the State budget; Kristen mentioned that she believed there would be meetings in the future but no additional dates had been set;
- Ad-Hoc Youth: Krista Fiser provided an update regarding steps taken to date to facilitate this process and move forward with a YHDP application;

Vote to Add Youth Action Board as a Standing Committee in the SJCoC Charter

- Krista Fiser read the proposed language for the Charter addition; discussed the need to add this language per the requirements of the YHDP grant;
- Jenn Rowell requested questions or comments from the General Membership;
- Kate Hutchinson moved to accept the YAB as a standing committee of the CoC; Jon seconded; unanimous; no abstentions;

Presentations

- None scheduled

Updates, Comments and Announcements from General Membership

- Jenn Rowell highlighted the presentation to the County Board of Supervisors by Kate and Jenn;
- Edward Figueroa thanked Kate and Jenn for presenting, and noted that the takeaway was that the Board requested regular updates to the Board; and highlighted the funds to the City;
- Kate Hutchinson thanked Jon for the authorship of the report that was presented;
- Adam Cheshire mentioned that he would be handling a presentation to the Board each meeting and would welcome and suggestions or representation from the CoC in those presentations;
- Jon Mendelson mentioned that he was pleased with the example set by the Board regarding the support for shelter projects and for initiatives lead by the Cities around the County, and noted how far this process has come vs. 5 years ago and the role of the CoC in building consensus over that period;

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- Peter Ragsdale mentioned that he was impressed with the demonstration of collaboration; challenged the Board to push for housing, which requires a much longer timeframe to bring to fruition; that housing solves homelessness, and shelter is not a long-term solution;
- Russ Hayward echoed Jon's comments and mentioned that in Lodi there has been a similar effort around consensus building that has yielded demonstrable results around the development of several projects to expand shelter and services for the homeless in that community; Jenn highlighted similar results in the City of Tracy;
- Jenn Rowell addressed Peter's previous point to reiterated that "housing solves homelessness", and that affordable housing across all income levels is essential to a healthy community; highlighted the work of the Committees in facilitating the decisions of the Board of Supervisors at the most recent meeting;
- Edward Figueroa asked Peter about the Turnpike Commons project: Peter mentioned that the ribbon cutting is tentatively planned for early August, with clients moving in following that;
- Kristen Birtwhistle asked Peter about the Fairgrounds: Peter did not have an update beyond what was publicly available; stated that affordable housing doesn't necessarily mean permanent supportive housing; highlighted the local planning around Homekey;
- Kristen Birtwhistle encouraged folks listening to consider a leadership role on the Shelter Committee to replace the loss of leadership, in consideration that the Cities will be moving forward with implementation of their shelter projects and the Committee should have a role in those discussions;
- JoLyn McMillan stated that their pets program was live; talked about the Women's Shelter expansion around weather concerns; stated that there was a positive COVID test at the shelter last week;
- Edward Figueroa asked about the timeline for a Housing Committee: Jenn responded that the decision was made that there was not enough capacity for this committee at a previous meeting;
- Patricia Barrett suggested that the Board reach out to the public to get involved in a Housing Committee;
- Joelle Gomez updated the Membership regarding an outbreak of 18 cases at Children's Home and the response around that outbreak; mentioned that of the 18, 5 were staff who were fully vaccinated; stated that Children's Home will be opening up to TAY shelters to accept clients from those facilities;
- Randy Pinnelli asked about the possibility of agenda for a future meeting the expansion of the Board, and discussed reasons why he would be in favor of adding 3 – 5 additional Board members this year;
- Kristen Birtwhistle agreed with Randy; mentioned to Russ the possibility of the Education and Membership committee role in developing a Housing Committee or other new committees;
- Jenn Rowell stated that the contract with Homebase is expected to be executed today;

Adjournment

- 10:10a: JoLyn McMillan moved to adjourn; Melinda Ramirez seconded;