



**Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2022**

Call to Order/Welcome

Present: Heather Rogers, JP Butler, Judy Hutchison, Larry Imwalle, Manu Koenig, Mariah Lyons, Martine Watkins, Rachel Dann, Susan True, Suzi Merriam, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Kate Nester, Ryan Coonerty

Absent: Heather Rogers, Jamie Goldstein, Martine Watkins, Tamara Vides

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None

Non-Agenda Public Comment

No public comment received.

Action Items (vote required):

1. Findings Authorizing Teleconference Meetings

*Motion to Approve: Suzi Merriam
Motion Seconded: Judy Hutchinson
Abstentions: None
Board Action: All in favor, motion passed.*

2. Approval of Minutes: *October 19, 2022*, Regular Meeting

*Motion to Approve: Judy Hutchinson
Motion Seconded: Suzi Merriam
Abstentions: Rachel Dann, Kate Nester, Mariah Lyons
Board Action: All in favor, motion passed.*

3. Approval of 2023 Co-Chair Nominees.

Motion: It was moved to approve Tiffany Cantrell Williams as co-chair for 2 years and Tamara Vides as co-chair for 1 year.

*Motion to Approve: Judy Hutchison
Motion Seconded: Martine Watkins
Abstentions: None
Board Action: All in favor, motion passed.*

4. Adoption Approval of 2023 Regular Meeting Schedule and Location

Motion: It was moved to approve the recommended 2023 Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board meeting dates at 3:00 pm at the City of Capitola administrative building and have as many avenues for public participation as possible.

Motion to Approve: Manu Koenig

Motion Seconded: Suzi Merriam

Abstentions: None

Board Action: All in favor, motion passed

5. Approval of Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) Operation Committee Coordinated Entry System Recommendations

Discussion: Monica Lippi, from the Housing for Health Division, presented the Coordinated Entry Redesign and proposed Coordinated Entry process flow. The operations committee recommended 3 action steps for this policy board to approve: (i) ending the use of the VI-SPDAT; (ii) voluntary engagement of community-based organization staff members in housing problem-solving and assessment testing using paper versions of the new Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) and Housing Action Plan (HAP) from January 2023-March 2023; (iii) the continued prioritization and matching of active participants in the Coordinated Entry Housing Queue through March 2023 using the same historical approach used to date.

Concerns about referrals based on the highest score were raised, leaving out other vulnerable populations. Staff explained that there are very few available spots in the county for referrals through the coordinated entry system process. There are different levels of resources available for different subpopulations. Referrals are made if a household meets resource specific eligibility criteria, and they are prioritized via the coordinated entry prioritization process. In any given year, HMIS data indicates that more households exit programs to permanent housing through the work of specific programs rather than through referrals to permanent housing resources made through the coordinated entry referral process. A vast majority of participants that exit programs to permanent housing do not get it through referrals but rather through services and housing problem-solving work that happens with providers in the community.

Jessica Scheiner presented a high-level overview of the Coordinated Entry process flow and how participants are matched and referred to housing. Questions were raised if there was prioritization for certain circumstances like people with unique barriers in this new version as compared to the VI-SPDAT. Staff noted the HNA provides scoring that determines prioritization on who gets on to the housing queue. Concerns were also raised about housed individuals who have their units red-tagged and will need to relocate. Staff clarified that individuals living in red-tagged buildings are considered homeless by HUD standards. Individuals that were previously homeless and lost their housing would need to restart the coordinated entry process again at the time they returned to homelessness. Questions were asked about what people could do to access the coordinated entry system if they suddenly had a crisis. Robert Ratner shared the importance of being realistic about available resources and a shift from quantity to quality of services being provided given the lack of resources relative to

the need. Staff recommend increasing transparency about resource availability at every step in the coordinated entry process.

Tiffany Cantrell-Williams raised the issue of how equitably these resources will be available to those least able to access them. Staff indicated that connectors will be out in the field and will work on building relationships. Staff indicated the biggest barrier to helping households with significant behavioral health and other disabling health issues is the lack of housing resources dedicated to serving this population compared to the need.

Questions were raised on the scoring process to determine prioritization. Staff noted that there is a proposed scoring framework based on information gathered during the HNA. The current proposed scoring methodology provides higher scores for individuals with more barriers to securing and maintaining housing without support and to those more likely to have serious health and safety issues with continued periods of homelessness. Score thresholds will get established to determine an appropriate number of households to add to the “housing queue” so that nearly all households in the queue should expect a housing referral within a six-month period. Individuals not on the queue will not get matched to a housing resource through the coordinated entry referral process.

Concerns were raised regarding the capacity of recuperative care shelter beds in the County and the demand for these beds. Staff indicated there is currently a high anecdotal demand for recuperative care but not a system to track the number and sources of referrals for beds.

H4H is working with the Central California Alliance for Health on ways to incorporate their Medi-Cal managed care member risk stratification tool into the County’s coordinated entry scoring and prioritization process. A portion of CalAIM Housing and Homeless Incentive Program (HHIP) funding for Santa Cruz County will be utilized to support staff to develop recommendations for this process.

Inquiries were made about how the Coordinated Entry Redesign process will distinguish between rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing interventions for people who are in the housing queue. Concerns were also raised about the number of connectors needed and the budget available to support this process. H4H staff noted that strength-based care management is being promoted as an evidenced-based practice for organizing supportive services within the Housing for Health provider network. This practice recommends a full-time care manager for every 15-20 households. H4H staff have identified an initial group of up to 15 individuals that can serve as Housing for Health connectors. H4H staff recommend working toward a goal of recruiting, training, and supporting 50 FTE of connector capacity in the county so that 750 to 1,000 households can receive in depth housing problem solving supports at a single point-in-time.

Public comment – No public comment received.

Motion – approve three action steps supported by the Operations Committee at their November 17, 2022 meeting to allow H4HP to progress towards the Coordinated Entry Redesign anticipated to be launched on April 1, 2023.

Motion to Approve: Manu Koenig

Motion Seconded: Susan True

Abstentions: None

Board Action: All in favor, motion passed

Information Items (no vote required):

6. CalAIM Housing and Homeless Incentive Program (HHIP).
7. 2023 Point In Time (PIT) Count Community Planning and Volunteer Recruitment
8. City of Santa Cruz – Coral Street – Design Charette with Dahlin Group
9. Homeless Memorial – Wednesday 21st December at the Veterans memorial building, 840 Front Street, Santa Cruz at 10 am
10. H4HP Policy Board replacement nominees.
Some policy board members changing roles. February 2023 meeting will include some proposed actions to replace some board member seats.

Report/Discussion Items (no vote required):

11. California Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 3 and Round 4 Funding and Action Plan Update

In early November 2022, Governor Newsom paused all HHAP 3 funding and requested that local jurisdictions update their HHAP 3 funding applications to reflect more ambitious outcome goals. The Governor specifically requested more robust goals related to reducing unsheltered homelessness. To secure HHAP-3 funding, H4H staff were required to update their HHAP-3 unsheltered outcome goals and to agree to the implementation of several best practices. Staff shared a table analyzing changes made to the outcome goals for both HHAP round 3 and HHAP round 4 and the expected goals for Santa Cruz County & CoC moving forward.

Manu Koenig also shared his experience attending the governor's special HHAP-funding meeting on housing and homelessness for local elected leaders.

Board Member Announcements - None

Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 3 pm.