



Mission: Build partnerships and promote strong collaborative action to ensure all residents within the County have stable, safe, and healthy places to live.

**Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) Policy Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2024; 3 pm**

Call to Order/Welcome

Present: Heather Rogers, Justin Cummings, Kate Nester, Mali LaGoe, Courtney Lindberg, Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, Suzi Merriam, Tom Stagg, Shane Mckeithen, Terence Concannon

Absent: Fred Keeley, Karen Kern, Manu Koenig, Mariah Lyons

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Public suggested a better location for the H4HP board meeting with more parking availability.

Action Items (vote required)

1. Appointment of Courtney Lindberg, Public Works and Utilities, City of Watsonville to CoC Policy Board
Discussion: The City of Watsonville currently has two appointed seats on the Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board (H4HP). One of the City of Watsonville’s previous appointees to the Board, Rene Mendez, has left his position with the city. The Watsonville City Council passed a resolution on July 9, 2024, appointing Courtney Lindberg, the Public Works, and Utilities Director, to the Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board.
Public Comment: None.
Motion: Approve the appointment of Courtney Lindberg to the H4HP Board.
Motion to Approve: Justin Cummings
Motion Seconded: Tom Stagg
Abstentions: None.
Board Action: Motion passed with all members.

2. Approval of Minutes: June 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion: Approve the June 12, 2024, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting minutes.
Motion to Approve: Heather Rogers
Motion Seconded: Mali LaGoe
Abstentions: Justin Cummings, Courtney Lindberg
Board Action: Motion passed.



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3. Approval of CoC FY 2024/FY2025 Local Funding Application, Rating, and Ranking Process

Discussion:

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY2024 and FY2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition, and Renewal and Replacement Non-Competitive Awards for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Grants (CoC/YHDP NOFO). Additionally, they have released a separate competitive one-time Continuum of Care Builds Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoCBuilds NOFO). The Housing for Health Policy Board, staffed by the County Human Services Department Housing for Health Division, serves as the HUD-required Collaborative Applicant for the CoC/YHDP funds and (with the selected project sponsor) for CoCBuilds funds. Mentioned that new funds cannot be used for shelter, transitional housing, services, or homelessness prevention.

Discussed that the local funding review committee includes representatives who served last year that includes Larry Imwalle, Homelessness Response Manager from the City of Santa Cruz; Heather Rogers, County of Santa Cruz, Public Defender; Carlos Landaverry, Housing Manager, City of Watsonville; Karen Kern, Deputy Director, County of Santa Cruz Behavioral Health Department; one representative from the Lived Expertise Action Workgroup; one representative from the Youth-Lived Expertise Action Workgroup.

Discussed that the committee will recommend organizations to present their projects and will develop the rating criteria and recommended adjustments to rating criteria that include: (a) Removing all references and points for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) project and youth programs since YHDP grants are not competitive this year; (b) Extended a bonus point for programs that agree to serve immigrants and justice involved individuals in their eligible target populations; (c) Eliminated Coordinated Entry System (CES) and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) project-types as eligible for new grants; (d) Increased possible points for spending all of last year's grant from 5 points to 8 points and decreased the possible points for the ratio of housing/services dollars from 5 points to 2 points; (e) Clarified how CoC will use risk assessments for a possible 3 points if there are no findings or if concrete actions were identified to resolve findings; (f) Adjusted possible point deduction for late APRs from 3 points to 4 points and reduced the deduction for unresolved HUD findings from 4 points to 3 points; (g) Added narrative responses on prior experience questions and added up to 10 points for these responses; (h) Added 1 point for Coordinated Entry System participation; and (i) Increased total points available from 100 to 110. Discussed that YHDP and DV Bonus renewal projects can be reallocated.

In FY23, our Continuum of Care (CoC) received a total award of \$6,014,046, covering 16 project grants involving 11 different agencies. The current potential funding available for the Santa Cruz County CoC is \$6.88 million, which may be adjusted for rent and service grant Cost of Living Allowances (COLAs). Additionally, up to \$5 million in CoC Builds funding (before fair market rent adjustments) is available for a Santa Cruz County project focused on adding new units of permanent supportive housing through



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new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation. Mentioned that no more than 20% of the award may be used for other eligible CoC activities, while 10% is allocated for administration. Mentioned that renewals of existing CoC projects will now transition from annual to 2-year grant cycles. Discussed Key upcoming local dates and deadlines, as well as HUD fixed deadlines. Deadline for CoC/YHDP applications and project priorities in e-snaps is October 30th, 2024, and Deadline for CoCBuilds application in grants.gov. is November 21st 2024.

Public Comment: None.

Motion (1): *Approve the funding review committee to make recommendations for CoC/YHDP NOFO projects and The CoC Builds to be finalized by the H4H Board at a special meeting to be held on October 15th at 1:30pm.*

Motion to Approve: Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson

Motion Seconded: Heather Rogers

Abstentions: None.

Board Action: Motion passed with all members.

Motion (2): *Approve the CoCBuilds scoring criteria used to competitively score housing development projects and select a single project and include local jurisdiction coordination in project review and selection process.*

Motion to Approve: Mali LaGoe

Motion Seconded: Justin Cummings

Abstentions: None.

Board Action: Motion passed with all members.

Motion (3): *Approve Staff adjustments as presented made to CoC project rating criteria used to competitively score projects.*

Motion to Approve: Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson

Motion Seconded: Heather Rogers

Abstentions: None.

Board Action: Motion passed with all members.

Motion (4): *Approve The YHDP- and DV Bonus-related additions and CoC reallocation policy as presented to guide decisions regarding HUD CoC funding recommendations.*

Motion to Approve: Justin Cummings

Motion Seconded: Heather Rogers

Abstentions: None.

Board Action: Motion passed with all members.



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4. *Approve Service Provider Change for Freedom House Youth Transitional Housing Project and Associated HUD Rapid Rehousing Grants*

Discussion: *The CoC board approved the transfer of two existing Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) grants to Covenant House to develop an expanded rapid rehousing program for youth experiencing homelessness on June 8, 2022. The County of Santa Cruz, CFSC, Inc., and Covenant House were awarded \$3.58M of Homekey funds to establish a youth transitional housing program. Mentioned that Covenant House has been operating the rapid rehousing services program. Discussed that due to internal capacity issues, Covenant House notified Housing for Health staff that they would not be able to continue providing services in Santa Cruz County long-term. Discussed that the County staff and CFSC, Inc. identified the Bill Wilson Center (BWC) as the preferred service provider option for taking responsibility for the rapid rehousing grants and transitional housing project going forward.*

Public Comment: *None.*

Motion: *Move to Approve transfer of the \$438,368 RRH grants to BWC, including submitting a CoC Board approval letter to HUD and CA HCD Homekey program. BWC assumes the project on day 1 and continues serving the current clients.*

Motion to Approve: *Shane Mckeithen*

Motion Seconded: *Heather Rogers*

Abstentions: *None.*

Board Action: *Motion Passed with all members.*

Information Items (no vote required):

5. *Lived Expertise Action Workgroups – Updates*

Discussion: *Sheryl Norteye, a staff member of Housing for Health, shared that the first Lived Expertise Action Workgroups have been meeting for three months. Mentioned that some members are experiencing housing insecurity, and it has become challenging to get the group together. Discussed that Home Base and Goodwill, Inc. support these groups along with staff members from the Housing for Health Division. Supports provided include laptops, childcare, transportation, and even clothing. Mentioned that The Central California Alliance for Health provided some funding to help launch these groups. HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) planning grant funds will help sustain them. Discussed that The Lived Expertise Action Workgroups have about four projects they are working on. Mentioned that the groups are excited about the National Lived Experience Conference and participating in the HUD FY 2024 CoC NOFO funding process.*



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6. Central California Alliance for Health – Housing Investment

Discussion: Central California Alliance Health has announced they have made their first awards for the Alliance Housing Fund and will share additional information at an upcoming meeting.

7. Feedback and Grievance Policy Update

The Housing for Health Division staff is revising the feedback and grievance policy that was discussed at the June meeting of the H4HP Policy Board. Mentioned that H4H staff are conducting thorough reviews of policies and procedures from other CoCs and are looking into the staffing and resources required to implement a more comprehensive process, as requested by CoC Board members.

8. Housing for Health Vendor Pool – South County Homelessness Prevention Opportunity

Discussion: The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors approved the Human Services Department to establish a Housing for Health (H4H) Vendor Pool consisting of pre-qualified individuals and organizations interested in contracting opportunities related to housing and homelessness. Discussed that individuals and organizations interested in joining this contract opportunity network can apply to be added to the list of approved vendors by October 8, 2024. Mentioned that approved vendors will have the chance to apply for South County Homelessness Prevention funding of \$500,000 per year over a three-year period. The application process will seek a lead program operator to coordinate a comprehensive homelessness prevention effort. This program is expected to include housing financial assistance, legal aid, housing stabilization and transition services, targeted outreach and enrollment based on risk assessments, as well as thorough data and outcome tracking.

9. CoC Community Meeting Event – Late September/Early October – Housing First Practice

Discussion: The Housing for Health Division staff is planning a CoC community meeting in October. This meeting will include a remote presentation from leaders in Finland who will describe their efforts to implement Housing First practices at a national level, along with the results from this implementation. Mentioned that the event will also include a presentation from the former director of quality improvement and health integration at the Pathways to Housing program in Washington, D.C. Pathways to Housing utilizes a behavioral health evidenced-based practice that provides housing subsidies along with intensive behavioral health services for individuals struggling with homelessness and severe behavioral health conditions.

Report/Discussion Items (no vote required):

10. CoC Board Meeting Attendance

The current CoC governance charter states that CoC Policy Board members are expected to attend all meetings. The Housing for Health Division staff is seeking guidance from current Board members on whether to update and clarify attendance expectations within the Governance Charter. Discussed when it is appropriate to consider removing a member of the Board for lack of attendance



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and how Board members could have alternatives. It was mentioned that the Board has six meetings per year. Board members recommended that the Housing for Health Division staff send a letter to Board members who fail to attend more than two meetings to confirm if they are still interested in being part of the board. Discussed that after missing three meetings, Board members may be removed by an action of the Board.

Board Member Announcements

No additional announcements.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 1:30 pm

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate based on disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefit of the services, programs, or activities. This meeting is in an accessible facility. If you are a person with a disability and require special assistance to participate in the meeting, please call (831) 763-8900 (TDD/TTY- 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.