



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 Meeting Minutes December 18, 2024; 3 pm

Call to Order/Welcome

Present: Heather Rogers, Kate Nester, Larry Imwalle, Mariah Lyons, Memo Cerias, Rosie Garcia, Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, Karen Kern, Manu Koenig, Terence Concannon, Tom Stagg

Absent: Fred Keeley, Courtney Lindberg, Justin Cummings, Mali LaGoe

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Action Items (vote required)

1. Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 15, 2024.

Discussion: None

Public Comment: Mora from Homebase and Kyrolos Saad from Lived Expertise Action Board introduced themselves.

Motion: Approve the Housing for Health Policy Board (H4HP) Minutes.

Motion to Approve: Karen Kern

Motion Seconded: Terence Concannon

Abstentions: Mariah Lyons, Tom Stagg

Board Action: Motion passed

2. Approve of Housing for Health Partnership Governance Charter Updates and Adopt New Charter.

Discussion: The Governance Charter of the Housing for Health Partnership (CoC) has been updated by staff in collaboration with County legal counsel. Mentioned that the updated charter clarifies the distinction between public meetings held by the Policy Board and the other working group meetings managed by staff. Questions were raised regarding evaluations for Coordinated Entry. Discussed that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the CoC to conduct evaluations for Coordinated Entry. Discussed that the board previously recommended that staff seek external contracts, resulting in contracts with Applied Survey Research (ASR) and Focus Strategies. Mentioned that the board will provide recommendations on how to implement any changes to coordinated entry as a result of reviewing the evaluations and community feedback.

Public Comment: None



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Motion: *Approve the proposed changes to the Housing for Health Partnership Governance Charter and to adopt the new Charter with an effective date of January 1, 2025.*

Motion to Approve: *Terence Concannon*

Motion Seconded: *Heather Rogers*

Abstentions: *Tom Stagg*

Board Action: *Motion passed*

3. Approve Provide Direction to Staff RE: Updated CA Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Funding Process.

Discussion:

Tony Gardner, consultant for the Continuum of Care (CoC) shared a PowerPoint presentation about changes to the California Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) guidelines and the anticipated 2024 ESG Notice of Funding Available (NOFA). The presentation highlighted that the 2024 ESG program guidelines have been changed to streamline the process, with an estimated allocation of \$290,000 for the Santa Cruz County CoC. Mentioned that one of the significant changes is that while the NOFA will now be on a three-year cycle, the standard multi-year contract period of performance may extend up to five years. Discussed that the CoC will coordinate with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to develop performance measures, set funding priorities, and create relevant policies and procedures. Mentioned that if an agency fails to expend the full grant award by the deadline, it will be banned from receiving funding for two annual cycles. Concerns were expressed regarding the tight deadline for the 2024 ESG NOFA application process. Mentioned that Housing for Health staff will support agencies with their applications to HCD and will monitor grant recipients at least once during the contract period. Discussed that the funding priorities for Rapid Rehousing projects was based on the Housing for Health Framework goals and utilized data to identify how Rapid Rehousing projects lead to more positive housing outcomes.

Public Comment: *Larry Imwalle would like to develop strategies that connect Shelter with Rapid Rehousing programs to increase shelter capacity.*

Motion: *Approve one or two Applicants that are selected to submit applications directly to HCD.*

Motion to Approve: *Manu Koenig*

Motion Seconded: *Heather Rogers*

Abstentions: *Tom Stagg*

Board Action: *Motion Passed*



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Motion: *Approve one or two Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) projects that prioritize assisting families and connecting with shelters. Each RRH project will allocate 50% of its funding for rental assistance and no more than 50% for supportive services. The Board will develop and implement a local process, which involves creating the RFP process, forming a review committee of 3-5 non-conflicted Continuum of Care (CoC) members, and ensuring that at least one member of the review panel has lived experience.*

Motion to Approve: *Manu Koenig*

Motion Seconded: *Heather Rogers*

Abstentions: *Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, Tom Stagg*

Board Action: *Motion Passed*

Motion: *Approve Staff to present the selected awardee(s) for approval at the Policy Board meeting on February 26, 2025. The staff will proceed with the selection based on the review panel's recommendations and will inform the Board of the selection(s) at the next meeting.*

Motion to Approve: *Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson*

Motion Seconded: *Karen Kern*

Abstentions: *Tom Stagg*

Board Action: *Motion Passed*

Lived Expertise Workgroup Updates (no vote required):

4. Update on Status and Participation in Policy Board and other CoC Group and other CoC Group Activities

Discussion: *Sheryl Norteye, staff member from Housing for Health, shared that staff from Homebase are consultants who have been supporting the Lived Expertise Action Workgroups. Board members Memo and Rosie expressed their positive experiences as participants in the board. Mentioned that they have finalized their charter and attended the National Lived Experience Conference. Discussed their upcoming participation in this year's Point in Time Count and their efforts to collaborate with community partners through a live project proposal request available on the Housing for Health website.*

5. National Coalition for the Homeless Conference Update

Discussion: *Rosie, a member of the Lived Expertise Action Board, shared that the National Coalition for the Homeless Conference was inspiring and was impressed to see how Finland effectively implemented Housing First approach model. The Housing for Health Partnership shared a presentation titled "Housing First: From Principles to Practice" and shared Video on the Housing for Health Website- [Events](#)*



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Information Items (no vote required):

6. *HUD YHDP-CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity and CoC Builds Application Submission Update.*

Discussion: The full YHDP-CoC funding application was submitted on time and included the project ratings approved by the CoC Policy Board. Award announcements are anticipated in the first quarter of 2025. The H4H staff and consultants collaborated with the Vets Village project sponsors to prepare a \$5 million CoC Builds application for the project. This application was also submitted on time, with award announcements expected in the summer of 2025.

7. *2025 PIT Count – January 30, 2025, Update*

Discussion: The Point-In-Time (PIT) Count will take place on January 30th at 5 AM. Mentioned that to cover all census tracts, 120 volunteers are needed. Mentioned that Watsonville has expressed a desire for more data on the demographics of unhoused individuals in a specific region. The Housing for Health Partnership staff are collaborating with Applied Survey Research (ASR) and community volunteers to prepare for the annual countywide PIT count.

8. *2025 Policy Board Calendar*

Discussion: Next calendar year board meeting will take place on the following dates: February 26, April 16, June 18, August 20, October 15, and December 17 at 3pm. H4H staff are currently working to secure location(s) for the meetings.

9. *2025 Homeless Memorial*

Discussion: The Homeless Persons Health Project, Housing Matters, faith leaders, and the Housing for Health Partnership are proud to support the 2025 Homeless Memorial. This event will take place on Friday, December 20th, at 10 AM at the Portuguese Hall of Santa Cruz, located at 216 Evergreen St., Santa Cruz. Communities across the country will gather to remember our neighbors who have died while unhoused in the past year.

Report/Discussion Items (no vote required)

10. *Policy Board Co-Chair Interest and Nominees.*

Discussion: The Housing for Health Policy Board needs a Policy Board Co-Chair. Board members interested in a Co-Chair role should contact Robert Ratner.

11. *Housing and Capital Facility Development and Funding Collaboration*

Discussion: Seven projects submitted funding proposals for the California Housing and Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) program. Staff from the Housing for Health Division are seeking recommendations from Board



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Members on how to enhance collaboration and expand resources to support these projects, which aim to increase affordable housing options in the County.

Board Member Announcements

No additional announcements.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 3:00 pm

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