



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 Special Meeting Minutes October 15, 2024; 1:30 pm

Call to Order/Welcome

Present: Heather Rogers, Justin Cummings, Kate Nester, Mali LaGoe, Courtney Lindberg, Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, Suzi Merriam, Karen Kern, Manu Koenig, Terence Concannon

Absent: Fred Keeley, Mariah Lyons, Tom Stagg

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Action Items (vote required)

1. Approval of Minutes: August 21, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

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

Motion to Approve: Justin Cummings

Motion Seconded: Heather Rogers

Abstentions: None.

Board Action: Motion passed with all members.

2. Approve CoC Funding Review Committee recommendations for the FY24 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Discussion: On July 31, 2024, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The 2024/25 CoC-YHDP NOFO makes approximately \$3.524 billion available to serve homeless people nationally. On July 22, 2024, HUD also released a NOFO for a new Continuum of Care (CoC) Builds Program Competition to help address and reduce homelessness by funding new permanent supportive housing (PSH) units through awards for new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation projects. Mentioned that applications for CoC and YHDP funds are due to HUD October 30, 2024, at 4:59PM Pacific and CoC Builds applications are due to HUD November 21, 2024, at 4:59PM Pacific. Discussed that Applicant orientation workshops were held both in person and remotely for interested applicants. The H4HP board approved the formation of a Funding Review Committee, consisting of six members, including representatives from the H4HP Youth Lived Expertise Action Board (YLEAB) and the H4HP Lived Expertise Action Board (LEAB). Discussed that the committee was responsible for



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

hearing project presentations from each applicant, reviewing individual rankings and comments, and making final recommendations to the Policy Board. Mentioned that Local funding applications were due by September 27, 2024, at 5 PM. H4HP staff received renewal applications from all current grant recipients, as well as five new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) applications requesting Continuum of Care (CoC) Bonus funds, and two new Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus applications.

Discussed that the committee recommended full funding for all renewal projects in Tier 1. Mentioned that Shelter Plus Care will receive a lower ranking in Tier 1 than it would have if it had utilized most or all its grant. Discussed that the total amount allocated for Tier 1 funding is \$4,016,945, which covers only 90% of what is needed to fully fund all renewal projects. Therefore, part of the FIT First Step TH-RRH renewal project must include funding from both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 categories. Mentioned that the total funding available for Tier 2 is \$1,135,503. Mentioned that remainder of the Tier 2 amount is recommended for the new CoC Bonus project Shelter Plus Care Expansion. Discussed that the committee reviewed four new project proposals. The Housing Matters 180 Together Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Expansion proposal scored lower than the Shelter Plus Care PSH Expansion, which could help meet Housing Matters' urgent rental assistance need at Harvey West studios. FIT's Families and Seniors PSH proposal received a significantly lower score, while the Front Street Freedom Cottages PSH project and Front Street East Lake PSH rehab proposal was found ineligible for new Continuum of Care (CoC) funding.

Discussed that the committee is recommending funding for Monarch's high-scoring TH-RRH proposal, which aims to expand transitional housing for 100% of domestic violence survivors. Mentioned the remainder of the possible DV Bonus funds - \$62,569 go to Walnut Avenue Family and Women's Center (WAFWC) proposal. Discussed that the Funding Review Committee supports the approval and submission of all Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) renewal grants and the Continuum of Care (CoC) planning grant.

Public Comment: *Shelter Plus Care Expansion PSH project funding goes to Vouchers. Shelter Plus Care Expansion had a commitment of ongoing case management by the county as long as level of service was needed.*

Motion: *Approve the FY 2024 Funding Review Committee's recommendations regarding Continuum of Care (CoC) and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) project approval, ranking, and tier placement.*

Motion to Approve: *Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson*

Motion Seconded: *Manu Koenig*



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

Abstentions: None.

Board Action: Motion passed with all members.

3. Approve the FY 2024 Funding Review Committee's recommendations for preparing a CoC Builds application for the Homekey Veterans Village project in Ben Lomond.

Discussion:

The committee discussed the reasons why no applications were submitted for CoC Builds funding. The director of the H4H Division noted that applicants may have struggled to meet the tight deadline. The H4H Division staff recommended that the CoC Board instruct staff to collaborate with the Homekey Veterans Village project development team to prepare an application for CoC Builds funding. Mentioned that the Veterans Village project currently faces a funding gap that is hindering the completion of construction and rehabilitation at their site in Ben Lomond. Discussed that recently, the project was informed that it did not receive a 9% tax credit allocation, which would have addressed an existing financial gap of approximately \$10 million. Mention that the H4HP supported Vets Village team with applying for Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) Program fund and waiting to hear back on status of application. Discussed that a \$5 million CoC Builds award, along with other pending funding opportunities, could help close this financial gap and enable the project to be completed in accordance with California Homekey program expectations. Mentioned that 20% of CoC Builds funds could be used for ongoing operations and become annually renewed.

Public Comment: None.

Motion: Approve the H4H Division staff to work with the Veterans Village Homekey PSH project development team to prepare a CoC Builds application for our CoC given that no local CoC Builds applications were received by the local deadline of September 27, 2024.

Motion to Approve: Manu Koenig

Motion Seconded: Justin Cummings

Abstentions: None.

Board Action: Motion passed with all members.

Information Items (no vote required):

4. Lived Expertise Workshop Updates

Discussion: Sheryl Norteye, a staff member of Housing for Health, shared that the Lived Expertise Action Workgroups have been meeting to establish who will serve on the policy board and identify alternate members. Mentioned that the members will participate as attendees, not as board members yet. Mentioned that they will undergo training and coaching to understand the expectations of their roles. Discussed that they are also working on a developing a request to review policy documents. Mentioned that their policies and procedures are expected to be



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

finalized sometime in December. Members, along with Housing Matters, have submitted a presentation proposal for a conference that was accepted and will get presented at the National Lived Experience Conference taking place in San Jose in November. This presentation will provide an overview of how we incorporate lived expertise into the Continuum of Care (CoC) process. Mentioned that the workgroups will assist with the electoral process.

5. CoC Community Meeting Event – Housing First: From Principles to Practice - Thursday, October 17, 2024, 9am-12:30 pm, Civic Plaza Community Room, 275 Main Street, 6th Floor, Watsonville

Discussion: The Housing for Health Partnership is hosting a presentation titled "Housing First: From Principles to Practice" on Thursday, October 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Civic Plaza Community Room, located on the 6th Floor at 725 Main Street in Watsonville. The guest speakers for this presentation will be Juha Kahila, Head of International Affairs at the Y-Foundation, and Cheryl Winter, Associate Director at the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). During the presentation, the speakers will explore the origins of the Housing First philosophy and discuss the collaborative efforts and resources needed to translate these principles into effective programs and practices. The intention of this presentation is to foster a community conversation and build a shared understanding of what Housing First is and how we can effectively implement this model.

6. Upcoming CoC Policy Board Member Changes

Discussion: The Housing for Health Partnership member Suzi Merriam has announced that she will be leaving the City of Watsonville because she has accepted a position as the Director of Affordable Housing Development with the Housing Authority. The City of Watsonville will need to find a replacement. The Housing for Health Division staff's goal is to have a reconstituted board by the beginning of next year, which will include many new members and changes, including Lived Experience Board members.

Board Member Announcements

No additional announcements.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 3:00 pm