



*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  
October 18, 2023; 3 pm**

**Call to Order/Welcome**

*Present: Heather Rodgers, Jamie Goldstein, Judy Hutchison, Justin Cummings, Kate Nester, Lisa Murphy, Manu Koenig, Mariah Lyons, Martine Watkins, Susan True, Suzi Merriam, Tamara Vides, Tom Stagg, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren*

*Absent: None*

*Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None*

**Non-Agenda Public Comment**

*No public comment received.*

**Action Items (vote required)**

1. Approval of Minutes: August 16, 2023, Regular Meeting

*Discussion: None.*

*Public Comment: None.*

*Motion to Approve: Heather Rodgers*

*Motion Seconded: Judy Hutchison*

*Abstentions: None*

*Board Action: Motion passed with all members.*

2. Approval of Operations Committee supported changes to CoC Governance Charter

*Discussion: Housing for Health Division staff discussed proposed changes to the governance charter, including incorporating people with lived experience of homelessness into decision-making processes in the CoC's Policy Board and Operations Committee. Discussed that these changes aim to align with state and federal emphasis on involving people with lived experience. Discussed plans to support a paid youth-specific and general population Lived Expertise Action Boards. Concerns were raised regarding the naming of the groups and whether the newly formed groups fall under the Brown Act. Discussed need to use appropriate language to clarify scope and role of these new groups. Mentioned how the new action board groups will require training and support to ensure that people with lived experience do not feel isolated or overpowered. Mentioned concern about potentially making the group too large and diluting shared ownership. Some Policy board members felt expanding the group to include more people with lived expertise was needed and appropriate. Discussed the adequacy of city and county representation on the*



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*Policy Board and reviewed the long history of work and conversations that led to the current configuration. Staff were encouraged to convene an ad hoc working group to consult with city and county leadership on the adequacy of city representation given that Scotts Valley and Capitola rotate seats on the Board every two years. Board agreed to revisit impact of lived expertise involvement after new groups start and individuals get incorporated into the operations group and Policy Board.*

**Public Comment:** *USICH regional representative Helene Schenider indicated CoC governance structures and methods for involving those with lived expertise vary significantly around the country. Emphasized the importance of genuine and supported involvement as key. Serg Kagno emphasized the importance of clarifying language in the governance charter and appropriately recruiting, training, and supporting new members, especially those with lived expertise.*

**Motion:** *Maintain current sizes of the policy and operations group at 15 members. Ensure each group has at least 1 youth lived expertise official member and alternate member and at least 1 general lived expertise official member and alternate member. Update language and group responsibilities in Governance charter to ensure Policy Board is the only group that triggers Brown Act public meeting requirements. Approve other recommended changes in CoC Governance Charter.*

**Motion to Approve:** *Manu Koenig*

**Motion Seconded:** *Heather Rodgers*

**Abstentions:** *None.*

**Board Action:** *Tom Stagg, no. Others, yes. Motion passed.*

### 3. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz for 41 Stability Housing Vouchers

**Discussion:** *The board discussed how Santa Cruz County, in partnership with the Housing Authority, was recognized as one of the top ten fastest users of Emergency Housing Vouchers in the United States in one of the most expensive real estate markets in the country. Mentioned that Housing Matters and the CoC received a HUD competitive grant to address Unsheltered Homelessness that will fund 13 project-based housing subsidies for Harvey West Studios. The award also came with an allocation of 41 stability vouchers to the Housing Authority to provide housing subsidies for prioritized households experiencing homelessness in the County. Reviewed that staff aimed to identify and refer eligible recipients for these new vouchers by March 2024, with goal of having all vouchers issued by summer 2024. Questions were raised if vouchers would be targeted towards specific groups or locations. These vouchers will be prioritized for people with disabilities and long histories of homelessness from anywhere in the County. Discussed proposed MOU between the CoC and the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz to utilize*



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*Stability Vouchers through the Coordinated Entry System process. Referred individuals will be connected to supportive services to secure and maintain housing.*

**Public Comment:** *Mentioned the need for enhanced care management and housing stabilization to ensure that individuals who are housed also have access to support and community connections, especially for those with mental health and substance use issues.*

**Motion to Approve:** *Heather Rodgers*

**Motion Seconded:** *Judy Hutchison*

**Abstentions:** *None*

**Board Action:** *Motion passed with all members.*

4. Approval of CoC/HMIS Data Use Agreement for Abode Services Cash Transfer Pilot Research Study

**Discussion:** *Discussed possible CoC participation in a rapid rehousing cash transfer research study sponsored by Abode Services and the University of Notre Dame. Randomly selected participants in Abode Services rapid rehousing programs in five counties throughout California will have an opportunity to participate in the study to assess the housing and other impacts of direct cash transfers to randomly selected participants. Current CoC HMIS policies required CoC Policy Board approval of research studies that involve the use of HMIS data. The proposed study requires individual participant consents to release their HMIS data.*

**Public Comment:** *None*

**Motion to Approve:** *Heather Rodgers*

**Motion Seconded:** *Judy Hutchison*

**Abstentions:** *None*

**Board Action:** *Motion passed with all members.*

**Information Items** (no vote required):

5. 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Scheduled for January 25, 2024

**Discussion:** *Reviewed planned meetings to prepare for the upcoming 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Scheduled for January 25, 2024. Mentioned that announcements for the meetings will be sent out via the Housing for Health Partnership membership mailing list. Mentioned that the first meeting will be held in person on October 26, 2023, at the Capitola Library. Discussed that there will be other Zoom meetings and in person meetings in the next four months. Mention that there will be a specific in person Youth meeting in December. Mentioned that 150 volunteers are needed to ensure coverage on the day of the count.*

6. When We Walk by – 1440 Foundation/Housing for Health Dinner Event – November 29, 2023

**Discussion:** *Discussed Housing for Health collaboration with the 1440 Foundation on hosting a dinner and educational event. Discussed that during the event, Kevin Adler, the Santa Cruz County Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2023*



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*Executive Director of Miracle Messages in San Francisco, will be sharing his story and discussing his new book, "When We Walk By: Forgotten Humanity, Broken Systems, and the Role We Can Each Play in Ending Homelessness in America." He will shed light on the work of Miracle Messages, an organization that helps reconnect people with their communities and loved ones. Mentioned The event will take place on November 29th at the 1440 Multiversity campus in Scotts Valley. The cost is \$85, and all proceeds will go to participating nonprofits. Discussed how the 1440 Foundation is providing funding for a pilot program for Miracle Messages to implement their family reunification services and phone buddy program in Santa Cruz County.*

#### *7. Policy Board Two-year Terms Ending, New Appointments/ Re-Appointments Needed*

*Reviewed the Housing for Health Partnership Governance charter that requires Board Members to serve two-year terms. Mentioned CoC Staff will reach out to currently Policy Board members to determine their interest in continuing to serve. Current members can be re-appointed if approved to continue by their supporting entity. Reviewed Policy Board Meetings take place at least six times per year.*

#### **Report/Discussion Items (no vote required):**

##### **8. Review of CoC NOFO Rating and Ranking Review Committee Process**

*Discussion: Discussed the Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) rating and ranking review committee process that involved making final determinations on local scores and ranks of renewal and new applications for HUD CoC funding. Mentioned how the Review and Ranking committee members gained valuable information from the interview process with some applicants. Discussed that Sienna House and Front Street applied for HUD funding for the first time and were ranked high enough to be considered for funding. Mentioned that Sienna House had split up their proposal to qualify for a Domestic Violence bonus, which would increase their chances of receiving funding. Mentioned that two grants were recommended for funding reductions by the rating and ranking review committee – the Health Services Agency MATCH program and the Encompass Youth Drop-In Center.*

##### **9. Coordinated Entry Brief Update**

*Discussion: Reviewed how Coordinated Entry is still in early stages of implementation. Mentioned that 48 people have completed the connector training and 11 agencies signed connector MOU's. Discussed how 374 people have been enrolled in the new HMIS coordinated entry project and 212 have been exited from the project. Discussed that currently veterans, youth and families are not going into the housing queue they are getting directly referred into programs. Mentioned there*



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*are no firm threshold scores yet due to low numbers of active participants with completed Housing Needs Assessments.*

#### **Board Member Announcements**

*No additional announcements.*

#### **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:           Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 3 pm**

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