

California Behavioral Health Planning Council

Housing and Homelessness Committee Agenda

Thursday, June 18, 2020

10:30am to 12:00pm

WebEx Meeting

<https://dhcs.webex.com/dhcs/j.php?MTID=m4d82694a9883a38e73c7ee90d8f3d5e6>

Join By Phone: 1-415-655-0001 / Access Code: 928 773 377

10:30am	Welcome and Introductions <i>Vera Calloway, Chairperson</i>	
10:35am	CBHPC Staffing Updates <i>Jenny Bayardo, CBHPC Chief of Operations</i>	
10:40am	Approve January and April Meeting Minutes <i>Vera Calloway, Chairperson and All</i>	Tab 1
10:45am	Housing and Community Development (HCD) Presentation <i>Tim Lawless, Branch Chief HCD</i>	Tab 2
11:25am	Work Plan Discussion <i>Naomi Ramirez, CBHPC Staff and Vera Calloway, Chairperson</i>	Tab 3
11:45am	Discuss October 2020 Meeting Agenda <i>Vera Calloway, Chairperson and All</i>	
11:55am	Public Comment	
12:00pm	Adjourn	

The scheduled times on the agenda are estimates and subject to change.

Officers: Vera Calloway, Chairperson Monica Caffey, Chair-Elect

Committee Members: Barbara Mitchell, Lorraine Flores, Gerald White, John Black, Arden Tucker, Darlene Prettyman, Deborah Starkey, Steve Leoni, Christine Costa, Sokhear Sous, Iris Mojica de Tatum, Tim Lawless

If reasonable accommodations are needed, please contact the CBHPC at (916) 701-8211 no less than 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Housing and Homelessness Committee (HHC) Meeting**

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Agenda Item: Approve January and April 2020 Meeting Minutes

Enclosures: Draft Minutes for January and April 2020 HHC Meeting

Background/Information:

Housing and Homelessness Committee to review and approve draft meeting minutes for January 16, 2020 and April 16, 2020.

Housing and Homelessness Committee (HHC)

January 16, 2020 – Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

Vera Calloway	Steve Leoni
Monica Caffey	Ricki Hammett
Gerald White	Sokhear Sous
John Black	Iris Mojica de Tatum
Deborah Starkey	Barbara Mitchell
Christine Costa	Darlene Prettyman
Lorraine Flores	Arden Tucker

Staff Present

Jane Adcock, Jenny Bayardo, Eva Smith

Welcome and Introductions

This was the seventh meeting for this committee. Members were welcomed and introductions were completed.

Changing of Officers

The committee welcomed Vera Calloway as new chairperson and Monica Caffey as chair-elect.

October 2019 Meeting Minutes

Iris Mojica de Tatum motioned to approve minutes from the October meeting, Deborah Starkey seconded. October meeting minutes were approved with Lorraine Flores, Ricki Hammett, Barbara Mitchell, Arden Tucker and Darlene Prettyman abstaining.

Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) Discussion

Eva Smith provided members an update on stakeholder efforts to advocate for ARFs. Eva reported that County Behavioral Health Director's Association (CBHDA) and the Steinberg Institute partnered to produce the budget ask of \$500 million in State General Fund (SGF) one-time emergency funding to stabilize and prevent the loss of additional adult residential facilities. This budget request would come from the newly established California Access to Housing and Services Fund under the Department of Social Services. Assembly Bill 1766, the data collection bill, was made into a two-year bill in order for the sponsors to work with the department to create more long-term solutions. AB 1766 would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to collect data to assess the state's inventory of facilities that serve persons with serious mental illness (SMI) and who are receiving SSI and to develop a notification process through the database.

Eva also informed members that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) produced a letter sent to Governor Newsom in November 2019 to illustrate the urgent need to

preserve adult residential care facilities as it relates to the homeless crisis. LAHSA is a big voice in this as they are a joint authority of the city and county of Los Angeles and serves as the lead agency in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care. They are responsible for a large portion of the interim housing, permanent housing, and supportive services for persons experiencing homelessness.

Barbara Mitchell encouraged pursuing recommendations discussed at the ARF September 2019 meeting to push for subsidizing board and care homes because the facilities are not legally considered housing and are not protected by a lease; they are care and supervision, and are not a permanent housing option. Barbara also mentioned pushing for the general rate increase for operators through a tiered system payment structure based on need.

Public Comment

Theresa Comstock, Executive Director for California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHBC) remarked on CBHDA and Steinberg Institute \$500 million budget ask from the California Access to Housing and Services Fund. Theresa expressed the importance of consumer and family voice and the Council being involved to address regulation changes; and explore home and community based services waiver opportunities and its potential to be a part of CalAIM.

Barbara Wilson of Los Angeles County spoke of the reimbursement rate disparity between persons who are developmentally disabled and persons who have serious mental illness and expressed concern for the growth of unlicensed facilities because of regulatory challenges and low reimbursement. Barbara also asserted in response to a committee member that residents do not have leases, but do have admission agreement and consumer protections.

Stacy Dagleish of Los Angeles County shared that when Los Angeles County began to provide patches to residents of board and care homes, due to unclear eligibility criteria, it created a backlog of applications for funding and determining eligibility therefore the money did not get rolled out quick enough. Stacy encouraged that aspect be addressed to prevent such an occurrence from happening again.

Housing First Work Plan Goal Discussion

Barbara Mitchell expressed her firsthand experience with the realities of implementing Housing First. Barbara spoke of the challenges in shared housing when persons who are working to stay sober and others are actively using drugs. Monterey County has been able to obtain an exemption for shared housing due to these challenges. Barbara mentioned a change in interpretation of Housing First in the last federal Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Continuums of Care, that Housing First could now require services by providers in some areas to help preserve housing. Examples include persons with no income who need to pursue public benefits and/or employment, and persons who require substance use services. Although services cannot be mandated based on a person's disability, it can be interpreted as a means to preserve their housing. Barbara suggested this committee work to get the state to adopt the

new federal guidance and remarked that in order to make programs financially viable, help ensure people have income.

Lorraine Flores also encouraged the committee to push for the state to follow the federal guidelines of Housing First.

Ricki Hammett stated that while Housing and Community Development (HCD) is the primary agency that funds affordable housing, Housing First is required to implement because of state statute. Therefore, a change would require legislation in order to change the Housing First policy.

Barbara Mitchell raised an issue that in recent years, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) changed their rules on residential care homes. They were once considered to be transitional homes, therefore persons still qualified as homeless. The HUD rule now considers persons in residential care homes to be permanently housed, removing all eligibility. Barbara shared an example of an issue as a result of this rule change, in which clients will turn down moving to residential care home because they know they will lose eligibility to apply for programs. Barbara stated that the state follows the federal rules and encouraged the state to deviate from federal administration in terms of eligibility of homelessness. Barbara also mentioned that because of Housing First persons who have been on waitlists for housing are now being dropped to the bottom of the list for prioritization. This issue has created an incentive for some to falsify data to get on the Coordinated Entry (CE) list.

Public Comment

Barbara Wilson of Los Angeles County spoke of her experience with people who do not acknowledge their disability and do not apply for benefits, are first placed in board and care homes. Although, persons who become capable of transitioning to a lower level of care are not able to because there is not an appropriate transition out of board and care. Barbara also mentioned examples of persons in nursing homes that could be in assisted living. Barbara highlighted the overarching issue related to these issues is the lack of continuum of care and services so that persons are appropriately placed in the least restrictive environment.

White Paper Discussion

Committee members discussed and reviewed the draft of the white paper to address supportive services for persons transitioning from homelessness to housing.

Ricki Hammett suggested including support services for persons who are homeless and have pets. Ricki shared that HCD recently released a PET Assistance and Support program which contributes to filling in gaps in services by putting persons in shelter.

Lorraine Flores voiced that if committee members have additional feedback, to submit it in writing to Eva, committee staff.

Darlene Prettyman suggested Barbara Mitchell’s housing program be included in the white paper due to vast array of services covered at Interim Housing Program.

Barbara Mitchell reported that she would be willing to do a presentation, which could highlight a successful housing program in a small and rural county. Barbara suggested in regards to the white paper, to retitle the paper to more accurately title the content.

Monica Caffey stated that other elements should be included in the paper including previously mentioned examples of persons that will not pursue services, because they do not believe they have a disability or eligibility, and the challenges of maintain housing to get a larger scope.

Steve Leoni suggested the committee look at Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) innovative projects, as well as CBHDA and California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS) for information.

Public Comment

Barbara Wilson of Los Angeles County reported that because of Housing First, the shelter system is inundated causing inappropriate referrals because of disabilities, physical or medical.

Frequent Users System Engagement (FUSE) Model Presentation

Piedad Garcia, San Diego County Behavioral Health Deputy Director for Adults and Older Adults, and Simonne Ruff, Director of Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) presented to the committee on CSH’s signature initiative, Frequent Users System Engagement (FUSE). This model helps communities break the cycle of homelessness and crisis among individuals with complex medical and behavioral health challenges who are the highest users of emergency rooms, jails, shelters, clinics and other costly crisis services. It is a proven model identifying frequent users and then improving their lives through supportive housing. Supportive housing is an evidence-based solution that leads to better health and other good outcomes for people homeless and disabled. Tenants are provided affordable housing with wraparound support services, which stabilizes their lives and significantly reduces returns to jail and homelessness, reliance on emergency health services, and improves overall quality of life. The presenters also shared other functions of CSH such as engaging and influencing policy and legislation to direct the system, consulting and technical assistance and training and education to build capacity.

The presenters shared their success rates of persons who have maintained their housing and their reduction in use of costly systems. They emphasized their objective to integrate and strengthen partnerships supported with the knowledge that when systems silo, there is an increase in costs, due to the “revolving door” effect.

Housing and Homelessness Informational Updates

Eva Smith provided informational updates on housing and homelessness. Eva reported that the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) will hold their next meeting at the end of February and to anticipate updates on the synthesizing of the white papers that they received.

Eva discussed the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) Policy Brief: “Strategies to Address the Unique Needs of Individuals in the Intersection of Criminal Justice, Behavioral Health and Homelessness.” This brief was produced from a housing workshop they hosted in September 2019 in partnership with HCD. The workshop was an effort to develop recommendations through open dialogue and roundtable discussions for the CCJBH policy brief that will address the intersection of criminal justice, behavioral health and housing outcomes.

Eva shared about Governor Newsom’s launch of the 100-Day Challenge Initiative for California cities and counties, which is part of a growing national movement to prevent and end homelessness. The initiative was issued to local governments in December 2019 and was included in the budget for immediate action for homelessness. The goal is to translate these actions into sustainable, scalable, long-term strategies that reduce homelessness. A number of California jurisdictions have already expressed interest in accepting this challenge and the State Administration will continue to encourage more cities and counties to take immediate action by taking on their own 100-Day challenge by targeting specific populations. Those who participate will receive technical assistance through the HCFC. In part of this effort, Governor Newsom sent a letter to President Trump, urging his administration to provide emergency housing aid from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to house 50,000 homeless Californians with federal housing vouchers. Newsom also mentions increases to fair market rents and halting cuts to public housing.

Work Plan Discussion

Vera Calloway asserted to committee members to send Eva Smith any additional information they wish to be added to the white paper so it can be finalized by April 2020.

Steve Leoni suggested that there might be information to include in the white paper from the FUSE model presentation given to the committee on this day.

Barbara Mitchell suggested rewording of the Housing First work plan goal: “Review, at the state level and make recommendations for changes.” Barbara also expressed making the ARF Project a priority goal for the committee.

Committee members agreed to include the ARF Project in their work plan with focus on long-term solutions. The ARF Project will be their first goal and Housing First will be the second goal.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00pm

Housing and Homelessness Committee (HHC)

April 16, 2020
8:30am to 9:30am
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

Vera Calloway	Gerald White
Lorraine Flores	Steve Leoni
Barbara Mitchell	Darlene Prettyman
John Black	Iris Mojica de Tatum
Deborah Starkey	Ricki Hammett
Christine Costa	Arden Tucker
Timothy Lawless	

Staff Present

Eva Smith, Naomi Ramirez

Welcome and Introductions

Members were welcomed and introductions were completed. The committee welcomed Timothy Lawless. He is a new Council member, and the newly appointed Branch Chief and Housing and Community Development (HCD) representative who will be replacing Ricki Hammett. Timothy provided members a brief introduction on his background experience and his role with HCD to oversee programs that target those experiencing homelessness such as No Place Like Home (NPLH), Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention (VHHP), Pet Assistance and Support (PAS) Program and other homeless youth programs.

Discussion: Local Measures to Help Homeless Population amid COVID-19 Crisis

Committee members discussed efforts put forth in their residing counties to assist persons experiencing homelessness amid the COVID-19 public health crisis. Examples include providing proper personal protective equipment (PPE), various supplies, adjusting to create physical space in communal living, educating residents on safety/sanitary practices and utilizing hotels/motels for high-risk groups or persons that have tested positive.

Tim Lawless educated members on the allocation of \$1 billion in state emergency funding which includes: \$100 million set aside for homeless assistance providers for Continuums of Care (CoCs), counties and the 13 large cities – which was awarded in late March, distributed by the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC). Tim mentioned valuable resources on the HCFC website for guidance amid COVID-19 related to helping homeless cope, best practices, shelter, quarantining perspective.

Tim also spoke of the \$50 million set-aside for Project Roomkey, a state program to help counties secure motel/hotel rooms for those that are homeless and infected or in high-risk groups. Tim shared that the state goal was to secure 15,000 rooms and well on their way to reach that goal. Tim reported conversations at the state level continue to take place regarding transitioning persons who have been placed in hotels/motels to permanent housing, best practices and resources.

Update on Work Plan Goals

Council Staff, Eva Smith provided an update on work plan goals. Eva reported that the white paper, The Crisis of Housing and Homelessness: Effective Programs to Bridge the Gap from Homelessness to Housing is undergoing its final review by the committee's officers and then will be posted on the Council's website.

Eva also announced that with the approval of the officer team, the Council signed on to a letter sponsored by CBHDA and the Steinberg Institute, directed at the Assembly and Senate leadership and the Budget Committee chairs for the upcoming COVID-19 legislative oversight hearings. The Legislature announced its intention to identify any gaps in the services or resources necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This effort will be an opportunity to raise the issue to the legislature of California's board and care infrastructure and its importance during the COVID-19 pandemic. CBHDA and the Steinberg Institute have submitted a request to the Department of Health Care Services to request a Public Health Emergency 1115(a) Medicaid Waiver in order to draw down additional resources for critical board and care infrastructure.

Steve Leoni suggested the white paper be an active document that is regularly updated, with consideration to how the COVID-19 crisis will affect housing and homeless programs.

Discussion of June 2020 Meeting Agenda

Committee members shared various ideas to include on the agenda for the June 2020 meeting.

Barbara Mitchell suggested having a presentation from HCD to educate the committee about the economic impact on affordable housing, funding and programs from the economic downturn as well as Fair Housing Laws. Barbara inquired about possible change in the rules of project design for housing. Barbara also mentioned the possible impacts of NPLH and if it will slow the schedule of funding because of lack of sufficient MHSAs funds to pay off bond.

Tim Lawless reported that he will be able to speak to those issues; although the impact may not be fully known by June but can provide an update.

Steve Leoni expressed interest in finding out if mental health clients are being disproportionately affected and in what way and what settings.

Iris Mojica de Tatum suggested looking into strategies to address a potential uptick in COVID-19 cases in the fall, particularly for the homeless population.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30am

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Housing and Homelessness Committee (HHC) Meeting**
Thursday, June 18, 2020

Agenda Item: Housing and Community Development (HCD) Presentation

Enclosures: None

How This Agenda Item Relates to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item provides an opportunity to learn about, and partner with, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) who is endeavoring to address the homeless situation in California. Through the gathering of insight and information from various stakeholders and agencies throughout the State, the Council is able to optimally advocate for accessible and effective behavioral health services.

Background/Information:

Tim Lawless, Branch Chief for HCD oversees programs that targets those experiencing homelessness such as No Place Like Home (NPLH), Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention (VHHP), Pet Assistance and Support (PAS) Program and other homeless youth programs. Tim will update the committee on the economic downturn impact known thus far from COVID-19 on affordable housing, funding and programs. Tim will also summarize information from the May Revise and the finalized budget, which will be passed by the Legislature on June 15th.

HCD Website: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/>

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Housing and Homelessness Committee Meeting**
Thursday, June 18, 2020

Agenda Item: Discuss Work Plan Priorities

Enclosures: Draft 2020/2021 Work Plan

Background/Information

The current work plan needs to be updated to accurately reflect all HHC activities including the Adult Residential Facilities (ARF) Project that the committee agreed to take on at the January 2020 committee meeting.

Naomi Ramirez will provide an overview of the work plan and an update on ARF activities to aid in the discussion. Vera [Calloway](#) will lead committee member discussion to include decisions on actions the HHC plans to take in the next 12 to 18 months and review and revise the work plan as needed.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Housing and Homelessness Committee
Work Plan 2020-2021
DRAFT**

Goal #1

To improve access to Adult Residential Facilities (ARF) on the housing continuum for persons with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

Objective 1: Identify the regulatory barriers inhibiting Adult Residential Facilities from serving individuals with serious mental illness (SMI).

Activities

- Identify problematic regulations.
- Research the basis of the identified regulations.
- Develop recommendations for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).
- Present the recommendations to the CDSS and engage in negotiations.

Objective 2: Address the financial barriers that inhibit persons with serious mental illness from being served by quality Adult Residential Facilities.

Activities

- Research and compile funding opportunities i.e. Medicaid waiver opportunities.
- Explore financial models used by other populations, including the Developmentally Disabled Community.
- Utilize the information gathered to design long-term viable fiscal solutions for adult residential facilities.
- Advocate for data and outcomes for individuals with SMI being served by ARFs.
- Propose legislation to support the financial model designed and source of funding identified.
- Collaborate with stakeholders.

Objective 3: Address land use requirements and community resistance, which create additional barriers for Adult Residential Facilities.

Activities

- Identify the origin of the land use and zoning permit requirements.
- Identify materials and compile a tool kit to address community resistance.
- Disperse tool kits to the Mental Health Boards and Commissions.
- Make recommendations to Board of Supervisors.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Housing and Homelessness Committee
Work Plan 2020-2021
DRAFT**

Target Audience: Counties and state legislature.

Timeline: TBD

Goal #2

To advocate for CA to adopt the federal definition of Housing First

Objective 1: Review legislation at the state level that mandates using Housing First policy and make recommendations for changes.

Target Audience: Counties, stakeholders, Legislature

Activities:

- Research and review legislation
- Collaborate with stakeholders
- Workgroup members compile list of concerns related to Housing First

Timeline: TBD