



MINUTES

Thursday, March 16, 2023

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- I. **Roll Call** – Community System of Care (CSOC) Council
Meeting called to order by chairperson, Maryn Pitt at 2:37 p.m. Please see the attachment for roll call.
- II. **Public Comment Period**
 - *Chair member, Miguel Donoso, inquired as to why Stanislaus County purchased the Salvation Army building on 'I' Street if building has remained vacant. What was the intended purpose.*
- III. **Action Items**
 - a. Motion to approve the February 16, 2023 minutes from Miguel Donoso and second from Monica Vergara. **Approved** (14 – Y, 0 – N, 0 – Abstain).
- IV. **Informational Items**
 - a. Kasey Houck, Community Services Agency Manager, introduced the latest Housing and Homeless Administrative Clerk, Monica Valenzuela.
 - b. HIC/PIT Process – Lynnell Fuller from the Community Services Agency, gave an update on the Point In Time (PIT) Count process. PIT takes place on one night in January for sheltered and unsheltered individuals that are experiencing homelessness. It is the Continuum of Care's responsibility to ensure that all projects that serve the homeless, are on a Housing Inventory Count (HIC). The reporting system opened on March 15, 2023. A technical assistance data analyst will review everything and will reach out with specific questions in a final phase to finish with entering data into the HUD HDX, manually. The count does not include the homeless youth in the school systems since most are not considered homeless, according to HUD guidelines.
 - c. Amy Wyatt with Thurmond Consulting provided an overall report on various Executive Orders as well as existing and upcoming funding opportunities. AB977 - Executive Order, 13985, for Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities. The head of each federal agency, in consultation with the Director of Office of Management and Budget (OMB), must review their programs and policies to assess whether underserved community and their members face systemic barriers in accessing benefits and opportunities. In utilizing the agency reports, the Administration has provided emergency rental assistance to millions of families, prohibited Federal contractors from paying people with disabilities subminimum wages, begun replacing the Nation's lead pipes to provide clean drinking water for all, rebuilding roads/bridges, increasing investment in public transit, and more.
AB 2339 – This bill was signed into effect requiring jurisdictions to include emergency shelters in their housing elements. The bill prohibits local governments from situating shelters in industrial zones or other areas disconnected from

services.

Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program – This is an upcoming funding source that will be available to counties only with a due date of April 28, 2023. Stanislaus County is able to apply for an allocated amount of up to \$10,819,200. The funding itself is flexible, but new construction is not permitted, but old facilities/buildings can be rehabilitated for use. Nonprofits are not eligible to apply.

Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) - Established in 2021 to establish BHCIP and award \$2.2 billion to construct, acquire, and expand properties and invest in mobile crisis infrastructure related to behavioral health. The fifth round of funding closed February 2023 and the sixth round of funding will be released in 2024.

Community Services Infrastructure (CSI) Grant Program – The grant program, through the California Health Facilities Financing Authority is intended to create and expand community alternatives to incarceration in the form of mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, and trauma-centered services. This program intends to expand access to jail and prison diversion programs and services.

Community Project Funding – Congress has established a process which allows members to submit funding request for specific programs and project based in their district. The 2024 process is currently open, with the due date of March 20, 2023. Total funding will be around \$16-17 million.

- d. AB977 – Amy Wyatt provided a brief deadline overview on AB977. As of January 1, 2023, any agency that receives state funding must have a project entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Deadlines for all Continuum of Care (CoC) is July 1, 2023; Stanislaus Community System of Care is on track for the initial deadline of April 1, 2023. No MOU is required.
- e. Committee Participation Update – Maryn thanked everyone that signed up to be a part of subcommittees within the CoC. Every subcommittee needs to be chaired by a CoC board member. Committees will be revisited in the near future to possibly condense similar committees to avoid overlapping work.

V. Policy Issues, Concerns, Actions

- a. HMIS Committee – Ron Reid, Manager with the Community Services Agency (CSA), is asking for direction. The team has been working diligently with obtaining necessary data for reports from agencies. The Governance Committee has come up with a three step procedure when working with an unresponsive agency. Voluntary compliance is needed, if there is no communication, identifying a problem and coming up with a resolution will be an issue.
 - i. Reach out to the Director or Department Head of the agency
 - ii. A written letter from the CoC Chairperson, Maryn Pitt
 - iii. Review from the board to possibly remove an agency from the HMIS list

Public Comment(s)

- *Michelle Gonzales: Agencies are made up of volunteers and agencies that participate in the continuum work continuously. HMIS mandates two or three meetings per month. Based on the course of action listed above, Michelle Gonzales feels as though penalizing agencies will discourage*

participation and questions the legality of HMIS mandates from other entities without any direct contractual relationship or compensation for mandatory meeting attendance. Asked for a revisit of HMIS Policies and Procedures as it relates to mandates.

- *Amy Wyatt with Thurmond Consulting: When working with other CoC's, instead of having monthly trainings, the HMIS Administrator and Staff would provide quarterly trainings as refreshers or any new updates to policies and anonymous surveys.*
 - *Maryn Pitt recommended an anonymous, quarterly survey that goes out to agencies that may not feel comfortable on outwardly expressing concerns or difficulties with HMIS.*
- b. Bylaws will be discussed, condensed and revisited in the near future. A more cohesive line of committees will be established, potentially downgrading from 12 – 14 subcommittees to 6.

VI. Committee Reporting

- a. HMIS Data Quality Plan Update – Emily Webster expressed that the HMIS Committee is reviewing policies and procedures, including timeliness and standards to ensure they are aligned with HUD; once revised, it will be presented to the CoC to review and update for finalization.
- b. Youth Committee – Emily Webster reported that the committee is looking into forming a youth advisory board that would require the CoC approval; the board would consist of youth from 16 – 26 years of age with lived experience to provide feedback and create the possibility of 1-2 youth vacancy on the board to have young voting members to give feedback on what is happening in the community and what their ideas are when it comes to providing services.

VII. General Membership Announcements

- a. The general membership announcement will allow anyone to present upcoming community events
- b. The Point in Time Survey is an anonymous debrief on everyone's thoughts are on the trainings and the count itself; the survey is due March 22, 2023.

Public Comment(s)

- *Hannah Brady, with the Senior Advocacy Network, has recently hired an individual to do housing education in the community that revolve around landlord and homeowner rights; educational presentations will be available for public and or staff members. Legal on the Move, which are legal pop up clinics, will be limited to Seniors specifically in rural areas of Stanislaus and Merced Counties.*
- *Wanda Jones was trying to help people with the Housing Authority Section 8 and the website made it seem as though the application was for those that have already applied.*
- *Michelle Gonzales with Stanislaus Housing Authority reiterated that funding is available to house 300 households immediately through Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, formerly Section 8. The Housing authority received 7% above their 100% allocation. Emergency*



Housing Referral Vouchers are being accepted again. A new law has gone into effect regarding leasing to someone in place; a landlord for an existent tenant cannot deny a tenants Section 8 as it is now considered a source of income and would be considered income discrimination in the State of California.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Regular Meeting: April 20, 2023 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: Harvest Hall Rooms D & E at the Agricultural Commissioner
3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358



ATTACHMENT A - ROLL CALL - CSOC COUNCIL
Thursday, March 16, 2023

Attendance

FUNDERS	1	Entitlement Jurisdiction: Modesto	Heather Jones	P
	2	Entitlement Jurisdiction: Turlock	VACANT	
	3	Entitlement Jurisdiction: Riverbank	Marisela Garcia	A
HOUSING/SERVICES PROVIDERS	4	Permanent Supportive Housing Provider	VACANT	
	5	Transitional/Rapid-Rehousing Provider	Esther Rosas	P
	6	Emergency Shelter Provider	Harold Laubach Jr.	A
	7	Youth Services Provider	Emily Webster	P
	8	Victims Services Provider	Stacy Vasquez	A
	9	Housing Authority of Stanislaus County	Michele Gonzales	P
	10	Veterans Services - VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Supervisory Social Worker or HUD-VASH Program Team Member	VACANT	
	11	Healthcare Provider	Lakin Ambriz	P
	12	Senior Service Provider - Stanislaus County of Aging & Veterans Services	Hannah Brady	P
BROADER COMMUNITY	13	BIPOC Advocate	VACANT	
	14	LGBTQ Advocate	John Aguirre	A
	15	Lived Experience 1	Carrie Turnquist	A
	16	Lived Experience 2	Miguel Donoso	P
	17	Lived Experience 3	Wanda Jones	P
	18	Homeless Advocate	Linda Murphy-Julien	A
	19	Faith Sector Representative	Jason Conway	P
	20	Neighborhood Representative- South	Maryn Pitt	P
	21	Neighborhood Representative- North	Monica Vergara	P
	22	Neighborhood Representative- East	VACANT	
	23	Neighborhood Representative- West	Margie Johnson	P
	24	Education Community Representative	Fred Berry	P
	25	Business Community Representative	Steve Madison	P
	26	Philanthropy Representative	VACANT	
	27	Law Enforcement Representative	VACANT	

A – Absent
P – Present