



MINUTES

Thursday, February 20, 2025

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- I. **Roll Call** – Community System of Care (CSOC) Council Meeting called to order by co-chairperson, Emily Webster at 2:36 p.m. Please see the attachment for roll call.
- II. **Public Comment Period**
 - a. There were no public comment requests
- III. **Action Items**
 - a. January Minutes: Motion to approve minutes by Major Darren Stratton, second from Jason Conway
Approved (13 – Y, 0 – N, 0 – Abstain)
 - b. Neighborhood Representative East Darlene Barber-Martinez: Motion to approve by Miguel Donoso, second from Fred Berry
Approved (13 – Y, 0 – N, 0 – Abstain)
 - c. Ana San Nicolas with County Planning & Community Development presented on the California Emergency Solutions Grants Program (CA-ESG) Funding Recommendations. The County released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in December 2023. To streamline and improve the process, the State of California has revamped the California Emergency Solutions Grants Program (CA-ESG), there is no longer a Continuum of Care (CoC) allocation *and* jurisdiction allocation which removed the administrative entity. The CoC now must choose a grant applicant(s), up to two, per CoC. If two were selected, it would limit the applicants/activities down to one rapid rehousing and one shelter. The CoC allowed Stanislaus County to be the grant applicant, which allowed more than two applicants could be chosen
 - Subrecipients will be funded for three years vs the previous one year
 - Changes were made based on a forecast of what the state predicted would be funded from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - No more than 60% of the allocation can be utilized for shelter services per year, 40% minimum must be designated rapid rehousing
 - Applicants that applied needed to have policies and procedures approved by the county and then by the state
 - Handouts were provided to the CSOC Board Members to approve the top three applicants for funding which include:
 - i. Center for Human Services for Emergency Shelter
 - ii. Turning Point for Rapid Rehousing
 - iii. Haven for Emergency Shelter &
 - iv. HMIS Data Support with the Community Services Agency (CSA)
 - If the CoC approves the support for HMIS and funding recommendations, county planning will present to the Board of Supervisors March 11, 2025 and submit to the state by the March 18, 2025 deadline



- Funds are anticipated to be released by September or October 2025; Ana would like to provide updates on the program every 6 – 12 months with HUD and state changes

CA-ESG Funding Recommendations: Motion to approve by Jason Conway and second from Miguel Donoso

Approved (13 – Y, 0 – N, 3 – Abstain)

- d. Kasey Houck with the Community Services Agency noted that the Youth Funding Services Request for Proposal (RFP) for an allocation of \$1 million closed on January 16, 2025. One proposal was received from Center of Human Services (CHS) which scored 92; the RFP committee recommends to award CHS for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Youth Services funding for a two-year period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 equating to \$350,000 each year, \$700,000 total with an option to renew one additional year, if funding is available at the end of the two year period

Youth Funding Services RFP Contract Award: Motion to approve by Jason Conway and second from Fred Berry

Approved (15 – Y, 0 – N, 1 – Abstain)

IV. Informational Items

- a. Ana San Nicolas announced that Stanislaus County will be launching a community survey soon. The Stanislaus Urban County & and the City of Turlock are in the process of preparing a joint Five-Year Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029 which will serve as the blueprint for the expenditures of federal funds in the communities of Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock, Waterford an the unincorporated area of Stanislaus County
 - Heather Jones with the City of Modesto mentioned that the city has received over 400 surveys to date; community meetings will be held over the next two weeks hosting throughout various locations within the county
- b. Carlos Cervantes with the Community Services Agency gave a debrief of the 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. 266 volunteers were trained, 199 signed into the app the day of the count and 232 conducted surveys; these numbers reflect those that assisted with the Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
 - The data will remain inaccessible to the public until June 2025. HUD has yet to announce a submission deadline; however, it is expected that this date will not be earlier than the mid-May deadline established in 2024
 - The HMIS team is currently developing a message regarding the data that can be shared about the PIT count. This information will be made available on the CSOC website and the county's social media platforms
 - Mindy expressed gratitude for the chance to carry out surveys at the CalPride Stanislaus office, nothing that clients who typically would refrain from participating in the PIT Count Survey felt secure enough to engage in the process within the business environment
- c. Brad Hawn, chairperson of the Stanislaus Homeless Alliance (SHA) is an entity formed that consists of elected officials from various cities within Stanislaus County to bring the discussion of homelessness to the community. SHA meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 1010 10th Street in Modesto

- Brad requested that CSOC give an overview of the System Mapping that is in process once complete
- There is a good chance that Homekey+ will continue for the foreseeable future, the concern is that before the application and project can begin; land must be obtained, work with the non-profit of the project, the beginning process can take a minimum of 6 months. Brads goal is that every city in Stanislaus County will have a project ready to apply for Homekey+ by February 2026 to greaten the chances of obtaining funding
- Church's can be a great opportunity for homes on excess property that they may not be utilizing; City Ministry Network will be the catalyst for church involvement

V. Policy Issues, Concerns, Actions

- a. Amy Wyatt, with Thurmond Consulting addressed changes regarding executive orders
 - On January 27, 2025, the office of Management and Budget issued a memo to freeze federal funding to allow for an internal review of programs which has since been rescinded by a federal judge which helped the immediate need. There is still a concern for the immediate future of federal funds announced with no contracts; awards may be rolled back which will cause concern for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG), Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding
 - Updated information can be found on the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) website and the National Low Income Housing Coalition
 - There is a federal budget proposal to reduce Medicaid and SNAP benefits by \$1.5 trillion; community members may reach out to congress to oppose cuts
 - Secretary Scott Turner wants to halt the Equal Access Rule Enforcement, and wants to revoke the Affirmative Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule
 - The new administration wants to lay off 50% of HUD workers which will affect the ability to draw down funds to those experiencing homelessness
 - Jason asked that this topic be a standing agenda item while changes are implemented with the current administration to review and understand the truth, not misinformation that is spread amongst social media

VI. Committee Reporting

- a. Jason Conway commended agencies with updated reporting into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The longitudinal systems analysis report that is submitted to congress has previously been a struggle for Stanislaus County; since the HMIS team has been working with local agencies, the data was submitted before the due date. Confirmation of acceptance was received for Stanislaus County as soon the report deadline closed with minimal back and forth between HMIS and congress

VII. Shelter Updates



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- a. Hallie with Cambridge Academies briefed the board on the status of Naomi's House, a women and children's shelter located in Patterson. The shelter has been open for four years, however, funding has not been secured to ensure operation beyond June of 2025. Grants for Permanent Local Housing Allocation Program (PLHA) and Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funding were submitted, whether or not an award will be received will be determined over the next few days. The shelter anticipates applying for the new state ESG that was recently released.
 - 134 unduplicated women and children have been served. Children are considered newborn to 17, adults age range is 18 to 82
 - 98% of clients identified themselves as Latinx
 - 94% of clients are domestic violence survivors
 - b. Emily Webster, provided a shelter overview and updates on the Youth Navigation Center (YNC), located in Modesto and opened in October 2021. YNC is a service hub for 13-24 year olds in crisis, experiencing housing instability or homelessness. Between the crisis shelter, low barrier and transitional housing, a total of 47 beds are available to those in need
 - Center for Human Services (CHS) provides sheltered services in Stanislaus County; Hutton House, an emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth has been operated since 1976. Transitional Housing has been provided since 2000
 - The Low Barrier Youth Shelter holds 24 beds, 130 unduplicated youth were sheltered during the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year (FY); 91 youth have been served current FY
 - i. The demographics of clients indicate that a large proportion of youth assisted are Hispanic/Latino. YNC also has a greater percentage of African American youth than is typical in the general population. Gender statistics show that males account for 62% of clientele
 - ii. 48% are victims of domestic violence
 - iii. 25% reported being LGBTQIA+
 - Services offered include outreach/navigation services such as coordinated entry, vital documents/workforce and resource linkage, behavioral health support, telecare drop in center and housing options/support
 - Funding sources include California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), ESG, CDBG, HHAP, EFSP, Donations
 - Gaps in Funding include concerns over ongoing funding, voucher availability and staff turnover

VIII. General Membership Announcements

- i. Fred has received an application for the Homeless Advocate membership position; references were checked but has not an opportunity to speak directly with the applicant
- ii. Brooke Swan with City of Modesto (COM) announced the release of the 2025/2026 FY NOFA; flyers that include a NOFA timeline as well as scheduled COM plan meetings were made available to attendees
- iii. Darlene Barber-Martinez's non-profit, Central Valley Community Resources (CVCR), is in the process of developing a housing project for unhoused veterans and families with children. CVCR will be presenting to the Riverbank City Council



meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6 p.m. and is inviting everyone to attend and show their support for the project

IX. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 20, 2025 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Harvest Hall Rooms D & E at the Agricultural Commissioner's Office
3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358



ATTACHMENT A - ROLL CALL - CSOC COUNCIL
Thursday, February 20, 2025

Attendance

FUNDERS	1	Entitlement Jurisdiction: Modesto	Heather Jones	P
	2	Entitlement Jurisdiction: Turlock	Jennifer Figueroa	P
	3	Entitlement Jurisdiction: Riverbank	Marisela Garcia	P
HOUSING/SERVICES PROVIDERS	4	Permanent Supportive Housing Provider	Kevin Smith	A
	5	Transitional/Rapid-Rehousing Provider	Esther Rosas	A
	6	Emergency Shelter Provider	Major Darren Stratton	P
	7	Youth Services Provider	Emily Webster	P
	8	Victims Services Provider	Melanie Gallagher	P
	9	Housing Authority of Stanislaus County	Marissa Black	A
	10	Veterans Services	Jose Ortega	P
	11	Healthcare Provider	Lakin Ambriz	P
	12	Senior Service Provider - Stanislaus County of Aging & Veterans Services	Hannah Brady	A
BROADER COMMUNITY	13	BIPOC Advocate	Greg Merritt	A
	14	LGBTQ Advocate	Mindy Harrod	P
	15	Lived Experience 1	Miguel Donoso	P
	16	Lived Experience 2	Carrie Turnquist	A
	17	Lived Experience 3	Wanda Jones	P
	18	Homeless Advocate	VACANT	
	19	Faith Sector Representative	Jason Conway	P
	20	Neighborhood Representative- North	VACANT	
	21	Neighborhood Representative- South	Maryn Pitt	P
	22	Neighborhood Representative- East	Darlene Barber-Martinez	P
	23	Neighborhood Representative- West	Margie Johnson	P
	24	Education Community Representative	Fred Berry	P
	25	Business Community Representative	Steve Madison	A
	26	Philanthropy Representative	VACANT	
	27	Law Enforcement Representative	VACANT	

A – Absent
P – Present