



MINUTES

Thursday, March 20, 2025

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 2:35 p.m. Please see the attachment for roll call.
- II. **Public Comment Period**
 - a. There were no public comment requests
- III. **Action Items**
 - a. February Minutes: Motion to approve minutes by Miguel Donoso and second from Fred Berry
Approved (14 – Y, 0 – N, 0 – Abstain)
 - b. Maria Armstrong from the Housing Assessment Team (HAT) presented a summary of the services offered by HAT, aiming to secure financial support. These services include, but are not limited to, intake assessments and VI-SPDATs, case management, housing navigation, landlord engagement, and outreach efforts. As a frontline team, HAT provides immediate support to those in need, facilitating access to vital resources and services that help guide them towards stability. Adopting a trauma-informed care approach, HAT acknowledges that many clients have faced traumatic experiences, such as domestic violence, childhood abuse, and the pressures associated with unstable living conditions
 - As of the current date in Fiscal Year 2024/2025, HAT has successfully facilitated 440 enrollments for supportive services and has provided housing for 95 householdsA board request for an estimated assistance cost per household to be included in future presentations as well as how many engagements does it take, on average, until someone is housed to analyze staff time and cost
HAT is asking for continued support to continue case management, housing navigation, etc., for a total of \$610,519 from HHAP Round 5
 - Prior allocated funding has not been expended in full, allocation deadline is 6/30/2025
 - Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 3 has a remaining balance of \$197,737, Round 4 has a remaining balance of \$204,880 that have been designated and allocated to HATHAT HHAP Funding postponed until April 2025; the board has requested a budget overview prior to voting on a funding request
No action at this time
- IV. **Informational Items**
 - a. Maryn briefed the board on the housing voucher availability concern. Challenges include a shortage in units. Conversation for any available resources for vouchers or project vouchers should be discussed. As a community, a collaborative approach and thinking about how the community can work together to come up with

ideas on how to get individuals into housing. An adhoc working group was suggested, a sheet was passed around for volunteered signups Lakin Ambriz noted that housing navigation and deposits may be offered by CalAIM as a onetime move in assistance. Transitional rent for HealthNet members will go live in January 2026 for a very specific population of focus, and is a time limited subsidy of up to 6 months

- b. Fred has been unable to touch base with the Homeless Advocate Membership Applicant, there is no updated information to report

V. Policy Issues, Concerns, Actions

- a. The Point-in-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) conducted annually contain questions that are not mandated to be asked by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) but rather, help collect data on the local homeless community
 - Emily Webster proposed the idea of gathering information from the non-mandatory questions during outreach or while providing supportive services
 - Carlos Cervantes noted that the information gathered from non-mandatory questions is not being effectively used within the community. According to HUD, communities that include extra voluntary questions tend to produce data that is less accurate and comprehensive compared to those that strictly adhere to mandated questions
 - It was proposed to establish the PIT working group to identify the appropriate questions to include and exclude in the PIT/HIC count. A sign-up sheet circulated for participation

Public Comment(s)

- An outreach staff member mentioned that some outreach workers are curious about how the PIT count might vary between winter and summer, and what the implications of the difference could be. During the summer, a larger portion of the homeless population is visible, while in winter, individuals tend to seek shelter from the cold and often utilize hotel vouchers
 - Carlos Cervantes pointed out that HUD requires the PIT/HIC count to be conducted every two years. In the years when this is not obligatory, it may be beneficial for CSOC to perform a PIT/HIC count during the summer season
- b. Leng Kutil, with Thurmond Consulting updated the board on recent Executive Orders
 - The reduction of staff at the federal level is directly affecting HUD'S workforce, as well as the technical assistance contracts, which in turn impacts local communities that engage with HUD
 - The ongoing removal of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) elimination continues to impact federal programs; there is misalignment at the federal mandate. However, the requirements for accessibility and non-discrimination remain
 - In mid-March, the administration canceled numerous contracts that were in process of being issued, with no specified timeline for their reinstatement. While there have been increases in federal programs benefiting women and children, as well as in the voucher program, these enhancements are



insufficient to meet the necessary demands. It is estimated that approximately 32,000 vouchers will be canceled due to the failure due to the inability to ensure fair market rates are met, compounded by general turnover within the program

- Amy Wyatt with Thurmond Consulting will be available to CSOC virtually and electronically; Scott Thurmond and Leng Kutil will be attending monthly CSOC meetings in person

VI. General Membership Announcements

- i. Steve Madison announced his retirement will be in June, 2025; recruitment for his position has been posted onto the StanCO website,
- ii. The Modesto Gospel Mission has a Bridge Housing Project underway in partnership with the City of Modesto; all units have been delivered, all site completion is anticipated to be Mid-April
- iii. Darlene Barber Martinez: Central Valley Resources are still offering free tax services for anyone in Stanislaus County, by appointment only
- iv. Edgar Garcia: A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Dignity Village, located at 914 D Street is scheduled for Thursday, March 27th at noon. This initiative features 42 prefabricated tiny homes designed to assist individuals participating in the CARE Court Program, as well as those facing severe mental health challenges or struggling with substance abuse disorders. It is anticipated that this development will help alleviate the pressure on local shelters. The concern now is the fact that there are not enough operating subsidies, it will be important to have Jim Kruse from the Housing Authority of Stanislaus County explain to the group the deficit compared to upcoming projects

VII. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 17, 2025 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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



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

Attendance

FUNDERS	1	Entitlement Jurisdiction: Modesto	Edgar Garcia	P
	2	Entitlement Jurisdiction: Turlock	Jennifer Figueroa	A
	3	Entitlement Jurisdiction: Riverbank	Marisela Garcia	P
HOUSING/SERVICES PROVIDERS	4	Permanent Supportive Housing Provider	VACANT	
	5	Transitional/Rapid-Rehousing Provider	Esther Rosas	P
	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	P
	10	Veterans Services	Jose Ortega	A
	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	A
	15	Lived Experience 1	Miguel Donoso	P
	16	Lived Experience 2	Carrie Turnquist	A
	17	Lived Experience 3	Wanda Jones	A
	18	Homeless Advocate	VACANT	
	19	Faith Sector Representative	Jason Conway	A
	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	P
	26	Philanthropy Representative	VACANT	
	27	Law Enforcement Representative	VACANT	

A – Absent
P – Present