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## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 13, 2025

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

- I. **Roll Call** – Stanislaus Homeless Alliance (SHA) meeting called to order by Chairperson, Brad Hawn, at 5:34 pm. Please see attachment for roll call.
- II. **Public Comment Period** - None
- III. **Action Items**
  - a. Approval of June 2025 Minutes - Minutes were not approved due to no quorum.
- IV. **Informational Items**
  - a. Stanislaus County Veterans Services Office – presented by Ryan Keagly-County Veterans Services Officer and Juan Dennys-Veterans Homeless Outreach Coordinator.
    1. Veterans Services Office assists veterans, widows of a veteran, children of a deceased or totally disabled veteran and parent of a deceased veteran, with claims for compensation for service-related injuries, pension for war era veterans (non-service connected), widow pension, dependent and indemnity compensation, VA medical care, and education benefits (voc rehab, CA Fee Waiver, GI Bill)
    2. VA healthcare basic eligibility is for a person who served in the active military, discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and be within the gross HH income limit). Benefits offered are free or low-cost prescriptions, free or low-cost doctor visits, free or low-cost glasses and hearing aids. Note: Reservist or National Guard may qualify if they are called to active duty.
    3. VA Pension basic eligibility is for Wartime service for WWII (1941-1946), Korean War (1950-1955), Vietnam War (1961-1975) and Gulf War (1990-TBD). Must be 65+ or disabled and within the income and property limit. Benefits are over \$1,400 in monthly benefits, up to an additional \$945 in Aid and Attendance for veterans with a medical need.
    4. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)- Basic eligibility is a spouse, parent or child of a veteran who: died on active duty, died from service-connected condition or died and had been rated totally disabled for 10 years or more. Benefits include tax-free monetary benefit, basic rate of \$1254 and \$310 for each dependent child.
    5. Service-Connected Disability Compensation-Basic eligibility is having a service-connected disability, discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. Benefits are up to \$3831.30 monthly, tax-free for just a veteran. Married veterans with 2 dependents can receive up to \$4307.49. Note: Does not have to be a combat injury. Any injury or illness suffered or aggravated while in service may be considered.
    6. Services can also be received at the Modesto Access Center. Services Include: Centralized Homelessness Outreach and Engagement, Public Assistance applications, housing assessments and navigation, homelessness support services referrals, Homeless court, and outreach & navigation.

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7. VA & Affiliate programs are:
  - HUD-VASH
    - HRG Meeting-2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, at Modesto Clinic, as long as they do not have a 290 conviction and dishonorable discharge.
    - Permanent Housing Vouchers and case management
  - Compassion Residio
    - Senior program- Veterans 50 years and older, eligible to VA healthcare up to 90 days, then transitional then permanent
    - Medically Needy Program- Can be considered transitional housing up to 90 days, then transitional then permanent
  - Dignity's Alcove
    - 24-month Transitional Housing for Veterans experiencing homelessness
    - Substance Use Counseling and case management.
  - Catholic Charities
    - SSVF Grant-Serve homeless veterans and those at risk of becoming homeless by providing wrap-around supportive services such as rental assistance, utility payments, household items, childcare, transportation, medical/mental health referrals, affordable health care, housing navigation, money management, food/nutrition assistance and much more.
    - Shallow subsidies help homeless and at-risk veterans struggling with housing costs.
  - WestCare- San Joaquin Valley Veterans
    - Potential Housing and utility assistance
    - Case Management
    - Treatment & Rehabilitation
    - Mental Health Wellness resources
- b. Stanislaus County Point in Time (PIT) Report presented by Melissa Lehman
  1. What is the PIT?
    - The count is a snapshot in time (one single night) used to calculate the number of individuals experiencing homelessness and gain a better understanding of individuals who are homeless in our community.
    - Mandated by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
    - Implemented by Continuum of Care agencies across the nation.
    - Contributes to the national Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)
    - Informs policy making and used to determine funding allocations to address homelessness.
    - Takes place annually, the last 10 days of January.
  2. PIT Process
    - Data Collection: Sheltered and Unsheltered count, HIC reports submitted to HMIS by agencies.
    - Data Review: HMIS Team reviews all data received.
    - Data Clean-up: Unusable surveys are archived, data organized, and errors cleaned.
    - Data Submission: All data is submitted to HUD by HMIS team.

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- HUD Review: HUD reviews all data and will reach out for any additional data corrections or explanations.
3. Results Overview
    - Total reported: 2086
    - Total households: 1783
    - Interviewed: 1838
    - Observations: 248
    - Sheltered: 1136
    - Unsheltered: 702
  4. 2024 vs 2025
    - There were 136 less observations
    - Sheltered went up 3%
    - Unsheltered went down 6%
  5. PIT at a glance
    - Modesto had a 1% decrease, while Turlock had a 20% increase from 2024 PIT
    - 'Asked to leave' was the #1 reason for becoming homeless
    - 95351 zip code had the highest count
    - 72% became homeless in this county
    - 26% reported having a serious mental illness
    - 68% have been homeless in Stanislaus Co for more than 36 months
    - 50% have been in jail prison
    - 55% receive public assistance
  6. Volunteers
    - 266 individuals volunteered for the 2025 PIT count; 87% (232) participated in completing surveys for both the shelter and unsheltered counts
- c. Stanislaus County System of Care (CSOC) Mapping project was present by Maryn Pitt, chair of CSOC
1. Annual Point in Time Count tells who our people experiencing homelessness are. A tool for data building strategies
  2. Asking the next questions:
    - Are the types of shelter provided in Stanislaus County match to those in need of shelter?
    - Are the services that are available match the needs of those in need?
    - Are there enough services?
    - Are there gaps in services?
  3. The mapping project:
    - Why?
    - What did we hope it will tell us?
    - How will we use the results?
    - What else will we learn?
  4. Takeaways
    - What we know is that we all need to be pulling in the same direction.

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- Funding decisions on future funds made available to the CSOC and County will be data informed decisions to leverage and maximize results.
- This system is not etched in stone but rather is a starting place to track how people experiencing homelessness move through our system.
- Bonus as a large database of service providers that helps other providers and agencies connect with each other to better work together

### SHA General Membership announcements:

**City of Ceres:** There has been an issue again where taxis are dropping off homeless people at the community center. The center is closed on Sundays, and homeless services are not offered in Ceres, such as an emergency homeless response team. The only alternative is to call the police who will either do nothing or take them to jail.

The Tuscany Village houses are still on the market. There about 20 half-built homes that are continually being vandalized and stripped. Trying to negotiate with the bank, and any offers that may have come in, the court has not accepted, or no one has been able to secure funding. Warren from the Stanislaus Homeless Coalition would like to prepare 30 turkeys for the homeless, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Would like to do haircuts and showers and is looking for volunteers to help.

Is working on an MOU with La Familia so they can go out to Ceres and help out with free mental health assistance with their mobile facility.

**City of Patterson:** The number of homeless individuals in Patterson has seen a significant decrease this year. According to the PIT count, there are 36 unhoused in the city. This is a 46% reduction within the last 2 years.

The woman's shelter has closed due to lack of funding. The men's shelter is in the process of selling its facility. Councilmember has advised her city officials that a committee should be assembled to help the homeless population.

**City of Oakdale:** There is a new city manager, Jerri Ramar. The Day center is still running, serving about 25 people lunch.

**City of Riverbank:** In the month of July, Sierra House was able to provide 147 showers, 97 for men and 50 for women. The city has had to dedicate general funds to sustain Sierra House. \$350,000 was allocated to transitional housing and Day Use facility. City council has made this a priority for themselves and see this as an ongoing obligation.

**City of Modesto:** For the month of July, DST, with 20 members worked 289 volunteer hours which resulted in 8100 pounds of trash being removed from streets and 11 parks. Two team members secured permanent housing.

MGM-Safe sleep- In July, the program transitioned to men, serving as a safe sleeping site, with a total of 52 men, providing services such as showers, laundry, and case management.

CHSS-For homeless prevention in July, assisted 13 households with rapid rehousing.

El Capitan- the city was rewarded \$18 million to reconstruct the 49 units that are there. 24 will be restricted for veterans, while the other 24 will be used for behavioral health.

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Bridge Housing-MGM and city of Modesto have completed 12 units at 1530 Owens. It will help those that are transitioning out of homelessness with the end goal of permanent supportive housing. Ribbon cutting on Aug 15, 9:30 am, at 1530 Owens.

**Housing Authority:** Had grand opening for the 1612 apartments. Have about 50 units leased. Working with a placement coordinator who meets with people applying for units to assist with getting paperwork together to be able to get in. Transforming a former infant day care center that has been vacant for years in Wesley into a 4-unit single room occupancy facility in conjunction with Modesto Gospel Mission, for single mothers with children.

**City of Turlock:** We Care shelter has been re-opened as of the beginning of this month. Has received funding from outside sources. It is limited and will be based on a month-by-month basis.

**Stanislaus County:** Mentioned to City of Turlock that there 'may' be CDBG funding for We Care and thanked council member from Turlock for her continued works. Update regarding Behavioral Health Recovery Services for those who have a substance abuse disorder can now be considered 51/50 and be taken off the streets to help, besides those with only mental health issues. Thanked everyone for all they do.

**SHA Chair:** Has received some private funding to help put together a plan to build affordable housing for families. Will be going to different city managers to discuss this plan further.

## V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm

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**ATTACHMENT A - ROLL CALL**  
**Stanislaus Homeless Alliance Board**  
**Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

**Attendance**

	Representing:	SHA Board Members		Attendance
1	City of Ceres	Rosalinda Vierra	Primary	<b>P</b>
		Mayor Javier Lopez	Alternate	<b>A</b>
2	City of Modesto	David Wright	Primary	<b>P</b>
		Nick Bavaro	Alternate	<b>A</b>
3	City of Oakdale	Christopher Smith	Primary	<b>P</b>
		Jerry Ramar	Alternate	<b>A</b>
4	City of Patterson	Gabriela (Gaby) Hernandez	Primary	<b>P</b>
		Kendra Mora	Alternate	<b>A</b>
5	City of Riverbank	Stacy Call	Primary	<b>A</b>
		Marisela Garcia	Alternate	<b>P</b>
6	City of Turlock	Cassandra Abram	Primary	<b>P</b>
		Kevin Bixel	Alternate	<b>A</b>
7	City of Waterford	Lise Talbott	Primary	<b>A</b>
		Christine Harris	Alternate	<b>A</b>
8	Community System of Care	Fred Berry	Primary	<b>A</b>
		Maryn Pitt	Alternate	<b>A</b>
9	Focus on Prevention	Brad Hawn	Primary	<b>P</b>
		Tim Byrd	Alternate	<b>A</b>
10	Stanislaus County	Terry Withrow	Primary	<b>P</b>
		Ruben Imperial	Alternate	<b>A</b>
11	Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority	Carlos Estacio III	Primary	<b>A</b>
		Jim Kruse	Alternate	<b>P</b>