

NO PLACE LIKE HOME ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2017
9:30 am – 12:00 pm
2020 W. El Camino Ave. 4th floor, Room 402A/B
Sacramento, CA 95833

Ben Metcalf called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

In attendance

Advisory Committee Members present: Ben Metcalf, Director Department of Housing and Community Development; Karen Baylor, Deputy Director Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services; Alicia Sutton, Housing Branch Chief; Tim Schaefer, Deputy Treasurer, Public Finance; Patrick Kennedy, Supervisor for District Two on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors; Alfredo Aguirre, Director of Behavioral Health San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency; Jacqueline “Jacky” Morales-Ferrand, Director at the City of San Jose Housing Department; Va Lecia Adams-Kellum, President/CEO of St. Joseph Center; Maggie Merritt, Executive Director of the Steinberg Institute.

Absent: Mari Cantwell, Chief Deputy Director Health Care Programs; Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary, Veterans Services; Toby Ewing, Executive Director of Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission; Robert Bendorf, County Administrator for Yuba County; Representative of an Affordable Housing Organization (Not yet appointed); Resident of Supportive Housing, (Not yet appointed)

Advisory Committee Members Introduction

Ben Metcalf welcomed everyone for attending and asked committee members to introduce themselves and share a snapshot of their personal and professional experience that they bring to the Committee and to share what their motivation is to volunteer for this opportunity. Each member shared both their professional and personal experience with the issue of Homeless and Mental Health.

NPLH Overview/Timeline

Zachary Olmstead, Assistant Deputy Director of Homeless and Housing Policy, provided an overview and timeline of the No Place Like Home Program.

Committee Member Input from Presentation

- Jacky: Could you explain the issue with integration and the 49%?
 - HCD is required to comply with court and statute responsibility around integration.
- Karen: Do counties know how to request the Technical Assistance fund. Curious on timing on funds since it will not be for another year.
 - They are currently at Agency’s review right now. The idea is to be able to use the fund to prepare and to be ready for when the application is

released so these funds will be released as soon as it is approved by Agency. Funds could be put into project development or expanding the Coordinated Entry System. That is why we are releasing the funds now as opposed to wait.

- Alfredo: Over-the-Counter start date is at the same time as the Competitive. Is it at the same time?
 - Our hope is to roll it out at the same time so that if counties would like to use it alongside with the Competitive pool. There will be multiple rounds. Alternative Counties cannot compete with the Competitive Round but they are still able to participate in the Over-the-Counter Program.
- Va Lecia: Could you provide more information on what kind of feedback you have been getting regarding the definition of At-Risk of Chronic Homelessness?
 - We have been asked to either keep it very flexible to capture more people or narrowing it in order to serve the hardest of folks so there is a balance there. Need to be a better way to deal with folks entering our system or for those exiting institution. Need to make sure to have sub-population be captured and served. Need to strike a balance to capture a broad pool of people who can come back into the community, use the system and not have it too overly broad where there will be a creaming of sorts where certain folks are being served only. This will be an on-going discussion and definitely will be brought back up for more discussion in the future.
- Alfredo: Target population definition include children with serious mental disorder. Assuming that they are a member of the homeless family. Suggest getting word out to children conference in Asilomar or Lake Comanche in May for children advocacy group
- Patrick: Clarification on transitional age youth if they need to have serious mental illness or not.
 - Still getting feedback on that but we have to take into consideration of the statute. Would encourage folks to have opinion of appropriate mental health of TAY to weigh in. Recognized there is may be some differentiating with the group.
- Allison: What are the comments on outcome measures?
 - Are these the appropriate data being captured? Who is responsible to capture data? HCD wants to make sure that we are getting appropriate measures like quality of life. Want to be able to capture measurable data. How much data, how often to capture data and which system to use in order to capture data? Looking into how to help counties be able to access resources to capture the data.
- Jacky: Are you going to have more guidance on what it means to have a low-barrier entry?
 - Yes, the hope is to have better clarity in the Guideline and that brings up the issue of Technical Assistance. What level of technical assistance from a government to a local level can we help in this? What can HCD do to help build capacity and understanding on how to coordinate entry works, how Housing First is and what that means? We will have this Homeless Coordinated Council developing where we can utilize that to funnel up a

variety of programmatic level that can help. Please let us know if we can help with target training or any other form of assistance that we can provide.

- Alfredo: There seems to be a contradiction in regards to Housing First vs the program. Housing First does not require services but the Program requires a 20-year commitment.
 - Requirement is that the services be offered not accepted. Speaks to a paradigm shift that housing is not conditioned. Continued offered of services have been proven to be successful.
- Va Lecia: Calls for on-site service be made available. Important to have someone there on-site so that when things arises, it can be dealt with. The fact that we are making a commitment is extremely important.
- Karen: Was there conversation regarding units being smoke-free? Or is that left up to the local for decision. Will there be any requirements?
 - Do not think there is anything that preclude it. Will look into that. Would like Committee and the public comment on this but HUD has embraced a smoke-free policy? Strategic Growth Council have proposed a smoke-free condition as a requirement for the Cap and Trade funds for the purpose of affordable program. While HCD has not taken a role on this, this would be a discussion that we will need to have later.

Comments from the Public

- Jan McGourty, Mendocino Co, chair of Behavioral Health Advisory Board: Desperate need of our rural county for housing in general (less than 2% vacancy) and mental health clients in particular. Very high poverty rate. One of the highest homeless rate in our grouping. Competitive grant process usually is detrimental to our needs. Lack of mental health services overall- have been trying to find a Chief Psychiatrist for years. Diverting MH health funds to this program will diffuse current resources and services. County jail is their default mental health institution. No growth in the community. Finding developer is impossible and putting all these requirements on top will turn them away. Please be aware of our special needs.
 - The department is looking into rural counties and ways to help assist and make sure funds (8% set-asides) for rural counties.
- Paul Curtis, Executive Director of CA Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies: Concerns that only youth with a serious mental disorder as statue states will preclude addressing the needs of at-risk youth. 77% unaccompanied youth remain unsheltered and unhoused and this initiative does not address them. 60% of youth have a diagnosable condition but that does not mean they qualify for severely emotional definition in itself, which is a concern. Want to make sure that the Department is serving this group. By focusing on the chronically homeless for youth will preclude them from being served in this program.
- Lois Lockhart; member of the Pomo Nation in Mendocino County, part of the Green Emerald – Concerned about the lack of funds available to meet the homeless need in Mendocino County. As a tribal elder, have experienced

homelessness since the beginning and the next generation is experiencing homelessness. Let us come together and truly advocate for those in need. Collaboration and Partnership is crucial.

- Heidi Strunk, CA Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organization (CAMPRO); There is a need to fill the vacant position of a representative of a housing organization and it is important to fill that seat before moving forward, by Autumn. It is important to personally support this person in this seat to get here such as funds, public transportation and time accommodation to use transportation to get here and to please use whatever method is necessary.
 - The Department is working hard with the Governor's Office to identify a candidate and is hopeful that that candidate will be identified the next time we meet.
- Michele Violet, County of Nevada MHSA Coordinator: Concern with the evaluation measures. Service are voluntary but some of the evaluation is the follow-up piece but how will data be acquired from that person if services are not required. Maybe language on the initiative need to be changed to reflect report on services are delivered by the county and look at how feasible it is to get data. Other concern is the unit type. A house with five bedroom could be considered five units but this program sounds like a house could be considered one unit. Please pay attention to verbiage.
- George Sigmarian, Senior Vice President of Public Policy & Legislation, Success Inc., represent over 2000 small home residential facilities for elderly and small home resident serving developmental disabled: What role does the small home residential facility have in this initiative? Why were the developmental disabled not included in this program? Strongly encourage including licensed residential care homes in a shared housing context.
- Natasha Reyes, Disability Rights of CA: Urge to incorporate physical accessibilities components into the program.
- Nathan Schmidt, Director of CA Housing Collaboration of San Diego: Will be submitting an application to be a Board member and to be considered.

Other Matters as Placeholders for Future Meetings

Ben asking for input on anything else on any other topics for future meetings, which is tentatively scheduled for May 18, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Agenda will be posted 10 days in advance. Please hold date and we will confirm shortly.

From Committee Members:

- Karen: Deeper dive and conversation with innovative solutions with rural counties.
- Va Lecia: More clarification on interim housing and requirements for youths, possibility of incorporating into shared housing
- Tim: more information regarding the validation process to have a better understanding

From the Public:

- Mike Jaspee: more clarity on eligibility criteria as relates to serious mental illness. Conflict on what is required actual diagnosis, conflict with HMIS and Coordinate Entry System with person of some kind of mental illness that is not strict to what is in the program. Need clear diagnosis of what constitutes serious mental illness.
- Steve Bishoff, East Bay Supportive Housing Collaborative: No focus involving family caregivers in this program, would like to see some attention to that.
- Gregory Sandman, Sonoma Co. long time housing developers: in the future, to have those joined the phone to put themselves on mutes, so that everyone can hear in the future.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.