STAFF REPORT
HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCE COUNCIL
JANUARY 10, 2018 MEETING

Contents

MEETING AGENDA

HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCING COUNCIL MEETING

2020 W. El Camino Blvd, 4th Floor, Room 402
Sacramento, CA 95833

Conference Call 888-808-6929 Participant Code 9905588

Wednesday, January 10, 2018
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

AGENDA

I.   **Call to order and roll call**   **1:00 pm**

    a.   Member Introductions

II.   *Action item*: Adoption of the minutes from the October 10, 2017 meeting.

III.   *Action item*: Discussion and adoption of the recommendations from the December 14, 2017 Governance Subcommittee meeting.

IV.   *Informational item*: A brief report on the results of the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.

V.   *Action item*: Presentation of the proposed *Housing First Checklist for Housing and Housing Based Services and Programs.*

VI.   *Action item*: A discussion on the prioritization of the Council's tasks and actions for 2018.

VII. *Informational Item*: Other matters not on the agenda for consideration at a future meeting.

VIII. *Informational Item*: Public comments on agenda items and matters not on the agenda.

IX.   **Adjournment**   **4:00 pm**

BACK GROUND
The Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8255 established the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (Council) to oversee the implementation of the Housing First guidelines and regulations and to identify resources, benefits, and services to prevent, and end homelessness in California. The Statute requires state programs that fund housing for homeless residents to adopt guidelines and regulations that incorporate the core components of "Housing First," as defined in the bill. The Council held its inaugural meeting on October 10, 2017 in the Community Room of a Supportive Housing Project in Sacramento. This Staff Report intends to provide recommendations, assist the Council and its member, and provide administrative support.

ACTION ITEM II: HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 10, 2017
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
7th and H Apartments
720 7th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ben Metcalf called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

In attendance
Council Members present: Ben Metcalf, Director Department of Housing and Community Development; Alicia Sutton, Chief of the Housing, Homelessness and Civil Rights Branch for the State Department of Social Services, Donald Cavier, Chief Deputy Director for the California Housing Finance Agency, Marianne Cantwell, Chief Deputy Director of Health Care Programs for the State Department of Health Care Services, Russell Atterberry, Undersecretary for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer for the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO) in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Mark Stivers, Executive Director for the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) in the Treasurer's Office, Gina Buccieri-Harrington, Assistant Director of Grants Management, Victim Services Program within the Division of Grants Management within the Office of Emergency Services, Gary McCoy, Policy and Community Affairs Manager, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, Jody Ketcheside, Deputy Regional Director for Turning Point of Central California Incorporated, Gail Gilman, Chief Executive Officer for the Community Housing Partnership, Amy Anderson, Executive Director at PATH Ventures
Absent: Jennifer Loving, Executive Director for Destination: Home

Agenda Item 1 - Election of a Council Chair
Ben Metcalf volunteered to Chair the Council's first meeting. It was noted, Council Member Metcalf would serve as the interim Chair until the Council members vote in a permanent Chair.

MOTION: Council Member Metcalf moved the motion; seconded by Council Member Ketcheside to recommend Council Member Metcalf to serve as Interim Chair.

Council members observed a moment of silence to honor all the people affected by the wildfires around the State. Interim Chair Metcalf noted there are households who are now are facing the possibility of becoming homeless as a result of the wildfires.

Agenda Item 2 - Council Member Introductions

Interim Chair Metcalf welcomed everyone and asked council members to introduce themselves; share a snapshot of their personal and professional experience; and to share their motivation to volunteer for this opportunity. Each member shared both their professional and personal experience with homelessness and Housing First.

Agenda Item 3 - Best Practices from Other State Councils Focusing of Homelessness

Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) applauded the Council's first meeting and provided best practices from other state councils nationwide. Ms. Miller provided a brief history of USICH's first Federal strategic plan to end homelessness, Opening Doors. Originally released in 2010, Opening Doors is a roadmap for coordinated, joint action on homelessness among the nineteen USICH member federal agencies with local and state partners in the public and private sectors. Opening Doors outlined the following four goals to help create a sense of urgency around homelessness issues:

- Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015

- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017

- Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 2020

- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

States could achieve any of the above goals when all levels of government (local, state, and federal) align towards a common goal. Ms. Miller encouraged the Council to implement the following best practices:

- Develop structures to support the operations of the Council such as the Council Policy Group and Interagency Task Forces;

- Ensure that all meetings provide for decision points to allow members to discuss and vote to adopt actions and strategies;

- Set statewide goals;

- Utilize performance management and metrics to monitor progress of goals and activities.

In addition, the Council could institute various State levers to drive action around homelessness issues, such as:

1. **Using existing federal policy guidance tools to advance existing tools and guidance at the state level.** USICH published: [Enlisting Mainstream Resources to End Homelessness](#). This document lists many ways a state can leverage mainstream programs such as TANF, Medicaid, and Housing Choice Vouchers and how they can support efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

2. **Technical assistance:** Access available federal technical assistance and provide coordinated assistance to address gaps to improve systems. For example, use technical assistance provided to two HUD funded [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) projects and ensure that learnings are shared](#)across the state to help shift state policy based on recommendations from those efforts.

3. **Industry engagement**: Engage related trade associations and leaders in housing and related fields.

4. **Partnerships with national and federal agencies**: Use federal, state and local partnerships to demonstrate unity and support. There is a new Federal Regional Council, Region IX, their members meet quarterly and are eager to engage with partners at the local level.

5. **Convening:** Bring together partners across sectors to amplify and align strategy and advance progress

6. **Communications**: Provide messaging from state officials and agency leadership to drive action. With the recent Hepatitis A outbreak, work to ensure that other cities are getting ahead of this crisis and putting in place measures to ensure that it does not get worse. Coordinate across agencies**.**

7. **Bright Spotting**: Promote key innovations and promising practices that can and should be replicated.

8. **Guidance and Policy**: Issue official guidance or informational memorandums that provide direction and promote accountability

Agenda Item 4 - Opportunities to Address Homelessness in California
Sharon Rapport, Associate Director for CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing) presented on the core components of Housing First. Highlights from the presentation include:

- Per [Senate Bill 1380,](#) state housing programs must now incorporate the core components of [Housing First](#).
- A Housing First approach provides the following:
  - Connects people experiencing homelessness people to a home as quickly;
  - Removes barriers to housing homeless people typically face;
  - Provides choice in whether to participate in person-centered services;

- o Gives tenants leases with rights and responsibilities of tenancy.
- A Housing First approach recognizes that a person experiencing homelessness must first be able to access a decent, safe home, before:
  - o Exiting homelessness;
  - o Addressing harmful behaviors;
  - o Improving his/her health; or
  - o Increasing his/her income.
- Housing interventions, by applying a Housing First approach is different for individuals or families experiencing homelessness or chronic homelessness.
  - o Households experiencing a housing crisis and have few barriers to housing stability may benefit from rental assistance over short period of time, assistance with security deposits, back utility payments etc..
  - o Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness may benefit through long-term rental assistance paired with intensive services that promote housing stability.
- Housing First approach is an evidenced based model where:
  - o Housing First Programs have lower rates of return to homelessness, allow people to exit homelessness faster, and serve more vulnerable populations than transitional models.
  - o Tenants in Housing First programs access services more often, have a greater sense of choice, and incur fewer days in institutions than "treatment first" programs.
  - o Housing First programs allow tenants to remain stably housed longer than other programs.
  - o People who are chronically homeless or cycling through institutions and homelessness there is a significant decrease in health, corrections, and child-welfare costs.

In addition, Ms. Rapport led a panel discussion on the perspectives of Housing First, panel members included:

- o *Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator, USICH.* Ms. Miller explained that the State should align the core components of Housing First to State Funded Programs by:
  - Identifying opportunities to advance the Housing First approach in the execution of state policy and funding commitments;
  - Providing training to appropriate state employees;
  - Training for grantees of state funded programs involved in implementing housing services;
  - Incorporate housing first in key messaging from all state officials as a policy imperative;
  - Bright spot CA programs that are best practice Housing First providers;

- Offer incentives for compliance and incorporate housing first into compliance reviews;
- Set up data tracking systems on state funded programs utilizing Housing First to monitor outcomes and further the evidence base;
- Link Housing First to Medicaid high utilizers across state programs to reduce health and other related costs;
- Assign a Housing First Officer at state Department of Housing to coordinate a Housing First response across the state.

o *Michael Robinson*, a supportive housing resident, narrated his experience from homelessness to a recipient of rental assistance and supportive housing services. He attributed his success of stable housing to the supportive services received over the last six and half years.

o *Mike Alvidrez*, Chief Executive Officer for Skid Row Housing Trust provided his experience developing and managing supportive housing projects in Los Angeles. He expressed conflicts arise when a project has multiple sources of funding. He would like to see the Council's recommendations be integrated seamlessly across projects.

o *Emily Cohen*, San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, provided examples of San Francisco Projects that implement the core components of Housing First. She touted the success of individuals moving from institutionalized settings and moving into permanent housing.

Agenda Item 5 - Establish Council Governance Subcommittee
Interim Chair Metcalf asked council members to establish a subcommittee on governance. The subcommittee is expected to bring back topics or recommendations for discussion for future Council meetings. The following council members volunteered for the Subcommittee on Council Governance:
- Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer for the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation;
- Mark Stivers, Executive Director, Tax Credit Allocation Committee;
- Amy Anderson Executive Director, PATH Ventures;
- Russell Atterberry, Undersecretary, Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Donald Cavier, Chief Deputy Director for the California Housing Finance Agency
- Alicia Sutton, Chief of the Housing, Homelessness and Civil Rights Branch, State Department of Social Services.

Council Member Welch asked whether the Subcommittee will be supported by HCD staff. Interim Chair Metcalf stated HCD staff would assist the Subcommittee. Council Member Sutton volunteered her team to help with staffing efforts.

Agenda Item 6 - Other Matters as Placeholders for Future Meetings
Council members provided the following topics for future discussions;

- Review Housing First implementation approaches in small communities such as Napa.
    - Council Member Ramirez suggested the Council review the Housing First implementation in Riverside County.
- Evaluate and prioritize the goals specified in [Senate Bill 1380](#).
- Overcoming the barriers faced when implementing Housing First in rural communities.
- Build a comprehensive list of all the funding sources and identifying any funding gaps.
- Potential impact of the new Housing Package bills and do the legislative priorities intersect with the Council's goals.

Agenda Item 7 - Public Comments

Jeff asked the Council Members to:
- Familiarize themselves with local partners working with the homeless in Sacramento.
- Look for practical best practices on the implementation of Housing First in each of the council members' jurisdictions.
- Set up a state database to understand the rural and urban issues in dealing with homelessness.
- Require building owners to be responsible for the accessibility issues.

Mandy Taylor, California LGBT Health and Human Services Network:
- Ms. Taylor presented the following statistics:
    - 30 of 40 percent homeless youth identify themselves as LGBT;
    - 1 in 5 transgender youth experience housing instability issues or at risk of homelessness or are unhoused;
    - LGBT community is most likely to experience a mental health diagnosis particularly around trauma and depression;
    - Twice as likely to use illicit drugs;
    - Individuals who identify themselves as queers and transgender experience higher rates homelessness.
- Ms. Taylor noted the council's membership included veterans and victim services advocates and recommended that someone from the LGBTQ community fill one of the vacant Council positions.

Liza Kirkland, Community Outreach Manager: Dignity Health:

- Ms. Kirkland shared success results from the Sacramento Housing with Dignity program. The program provides housing to chronically homeless people discharged from the hospital. The results are as follows:
    - In collaboration with insurer Health Net, the program has expanded from five stabilization units to twelve;
    - Program participants decreased inpatient hospital stays by sixty two days;
    - Hospitalization stays decreased by 52 percent;
    - Emergency room utilization decreased by 52 percent.
- Ms. Kirkland is seeking opportunities to expand the program to all areas of the state.

Jane Adcock, California Mental Health Planning Council:

- Ms. Adcock urged the Council to reach out to the rural counties who withdrew their participation from the Mental Health Services Act program. She suggested the Council reach out to one or two of the counties to learn what challenges or barriers they faced and what led to their withdrawal of the program.

- Ms. Adcock stated with 10,000 Americans reaching age 65 age every day, the Council should look into Permanent Supportive Housing or other type of housing that is suitable for older adults and individuals with health issues. Seniors may not necessarily need nursing care but still require some assistance with their health issues.

- Ms. Adcock asked the Council to not only think about the individuals who are currently in the streets but also serve individuals who are at risk of homelessness.

Rob from the 7th and H Apartments Supportive Housing Committee:

The Council should find out what works and what does not work for the homeless population. In addition, Council should find ways to prevent individuals from becoming homeless in the first place. Rob urged to Council to find more Permanent Supportive Housing units.

Bill Mendelson Executive Director, Central Valley Low Income Housing:
Comments on Housing First and SB1380

Mr. Mendelson congratulated the Council on the efforts surrounding the passage of SB1380 and the inclusion of the principles surrounding Housing First. He relayed concerns not previously addressed in earlier discussions or the presentation as:

- Require monitoring and enforcement on state funded programs that do not adopt or rewrite their policies to comply with the Core principles of Housing First.
- Impose a penalty or a fee for noncompliant programs. Mr. Mendelson mentioned that most of the presenters spoke about Permanent Supportive Housing in single site projects; however, programs in San Joaquin County usually serve the chronically homeless in scattered site housing projects. He noted the Council would find that not many communities could develop single site projects.

Mr. Mendelson stated Section 8257 (13) (of the Welfare and Institution Code) calls for the creation of a statewide data system or warehouse that collects local data through Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS). He pointed out that State funded transitional housing projects do not participate in the local HMIS. He reiterated that all state funded homeless program should enter their data into HMIS.

Randy Hicks, Legislative Chair, California for Disability Rights:
Mr. Hicks stated that we have lost a lot of good things that stopped a lot of homelessness and understands that there were big budget cuts, wide ranging from both the State and the County. We need to find out what other funding resources are available to close funding gaps. We also need to take into consideration the accessibility needs when constructing new units for individuals experiencing homelessness.

No comments received from the participants on the phone

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm.

ACTION ITEM III: GOVERNANCE SUBCOMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

At the inaugural Council meeting, members agreed to established the Governance Subcommittee, (hereinafter referred to as "Subcommittee") to manage the year-round and multi-year planning process. The Governance Subcommittee held its first meeting on December 14, 2017. The Subcommittee established organizational procedures to assist the Council in its oversight found in the statute. This Staff Report intends to provide recommendations, advise the Council and its members, and provide administrative support.

1. **Establish a Council Chairperson and Vice Chair**

At the inaugural Council meeting, Ben Metcalf, HCD Director volunteered to preside over the first meeting until the Council can permanently elect a chairperson. At the same meeting, the Council members did not identify a Vice Chair.

At the Governance Subcommittee meeting, HCD staff recommended a schedule that designated appointees to assume the Chairperson and Vice Chair duties in the future years. Subcommittee members collectively agreed that the Council should adopt a more flexible process for electing a Chairperson. The Council should consider a person's experience and interest rather than a specific schedule. There was general agreement that the Council should conduct the election of the Chairperson and Vice Chair at the fourth quarter Council meeting. Also, the vice chair position shall rotate across state departments or agencies appointed to the Council.

Governance Subcommittee Recommendation: The subcommittee members voted to elect Ben Metcalf, HCD Director, as the Council Chairperson and Russell Atterberry, Undersecretary, Department of Veterans Affairs serve as the Vice Chair, for all of 2018.

Going forward, at the fourth quarterly meeting, the Council shall elect the chairperson and that the vice chair is a rotating state agency or department representative appointed to the Council. The Subcommittee identified the schedule below where designated appointees shall assume the Vice Chair duties in the coming years.

Year	Vice Chair
2018	Russell Atterberry, Undersecretary from the Department of Veterans Affairs
2019	The representative from the State Department of Social Services
2020	The representative of the California Housing Finance Agency
2021	The representative from the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee in the Treasurer's office

2. Council Member Expectations and Responsibilities

The Governance Subcommittee members agreed that all Council members should demonstrate an interest in understanding and addressing issues related to ending homelessness. In addition, members are expected to fully participate and cooperatively work together to advance the objectives of the Council. Due to the fluidity of Council members, the Subcommittee encouraged the Council to create a new member handbook that outlines the expectations and responsibilities of all members. (e.g. Form 700 reporting, travel reimbursement procedures, Robert's Rules of Order, other reporting requirements, etc.).

Governance Subcommittee Recommendations: The Council shall adopt the following principles:

i.   The Council should address all types of communities and population groups experiencing homelessness and acknowledge the role of the homeless crisis response system (including the range of interventions from crisis shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing and supportive housing) in connecting people to permanent housing. The range of responses shall be consistent with the housing first approach.

ii.   Council members shall maintain a professional code of conduct, behavior, and demeanor during Council meetings and when representing the Council.

iii.   Council members are expected to make every effort to attend all meetings and be present for the entire session. If a Council member cannot attend the meeting, they are responsible for notifying the Chairperson of their impending absence.

iv.   Council members shall review items on the agenda before the meeting.

All agenda action items generated by the Council and subcommittees shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Council members provided a quorum is present at the meeting.

3. Meeting Structure

The Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8255 requires the Council to hold quarterly meetings throughout the calendar year. The Governance Subcommittee would like to encourage members of the public to offer comments and express their opinions on agenda items presented at all meetings. In addition, when feasible, individuals may provide public comments telephonically.

Governance Subcommittee Recommendations:
i.   All Council meetings are subject to the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open

[Meeting Act](#) (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120), Chapter 1, Part 1, Division 3, Title 2 of the Government Code).

ii. The Council shall use Robert's Rules of Order to conduct business and approve action items.

iii. There shall be an opportunity for public comment on the agenda items regarding that specific topic or action. General public comment will also be on the agenda for every Council meeting. Persons attending the meeting in person who wishes to address the Council on agenda or non-agenda items shall be asked (but are not required) to complete a Public Comment Card and give it to the Clerk before the start of the meeting. When feasible, individuals may address the Council telephonically during the public comment period. Comments (in-person or via phone) shall be limited to three minutes per person; however, the Chairperson may decide to shorten or lengthen the public comment period at his/her discretion.

4. Standing Meeting Agenda/Staff Report Items

The Subcommittee members recognized the Council's goals and responsibilities specified in [Statute](#), including but not limited to collaborating with state agencies and departments prior to July 1, 2019 and ensuring their programs incorporate the core components of Housing First. Additionally, one of the values of the Council is for Agencies/Departments and stakeholders to exchange knowledge with one another and be current on the progress occurring at state and local levels. The subcommittee agreed that the Council's role should be to monitor the progress of state agencies compliance with Housing First requirements as well as to prioritize the goals identified in the [Statute](#).

Governance Subcommittee Recommendations:
i. Each council meeting agenda should include a review of at least one state department or agency's program/s to assist them in adopting Housing First standards.

The Council shall adopt a Housing First Checklist (Checklist) and task one or more state agencies or departments to evaluate or assess their programs for compliance with Housing First. The selected state agency or department shall assess their program/s and provide the Council with a Staff Report of all changes needed and an action plan the agency is undertaking to move towards aligning or complying with the core components of Housing First.

The Council will rely on a small working group comprised of staff from agencies represented on the Council to review the received Staff Report, provide support, if needed, and convey their findings back to the Council. The selected state agency or department shall provide the Staff Report to the working group

thirty days before the next quarterly meeting. The changes that the chosen state agency or department is proposing to undertake should comply with Housing First.

ii.   The Council should establish a subcommittee to assist with the prioritization of the goals identified in Statute.

iii. Time permitting, each agenda shall incorporate a presentation and discussion of at least one promising or best practice that is resulting in decreasing homelessness, and potential action items related to specific steps to adopt the best practices discussed.

iv. A brief Staff Report for each Council meeting shall also provide an opportunity for Council members to inform fellow members of significant updates (i.e. funding opportunities or awards to homelessness programs) and progress made over the previous quarter by their respective agency, department, organization, or constituency. These written updates would provide a record for improvement, as background information, and should be submitted to HCD staff in writing by Council members within thirty days of the next quarterly meeting for inclusion in the meeting's Staff Report.

v.   The Staff Report for each Council meeting should also include any relevant data that has emerged from HUD or state agencies in the previous quarter (e.g. Point in Time Counts, updates on housing inventory, etc.), to provide background and context to the Council discussions.

5. Meeting Locations

Governance Subcommittee members agreed that Homelessness is an issue that impacts every geographic area of California. There was general enthusiastic support, amongst the members, for at least one Council meeting each year to be held outside Sacramento.

Governance Subcommittee Recommendations:

i.   At least one Council meeting per year shall take place at a location other than Sacramento.

ii.   At least one Council meeting per year shall take place at a location that provides services or provides housing to persons who are homeless or were formerly homeless (e.g. an affordable or permanent supportive housing development, bridge housing, emergency shelter, navigation center or recuperative care provider, health/mental health provider, etc.).

6. Reporting to the Legislature

The Statute outlines the Council's responsibility to report to the Governor, federal

Cabinet members, and the Legislature on homelessness and progress towards reducing/addressing homelessness. Additionally, the Council is required to assist agencies and Departments in meeting their Housing First goals by July 1, 2019. The subcommittee members expressed the need to summarize the Council's work in a cumulative report.

Governance Subcommittee Recommendation:
Beginning the first quarter of each calendar year, beginning 2019, the Council shall review the Staff Report on the activities of the Council in the preceding year, adopt that report, and send to the Governor and the Legislature. All materials will be available on the Council's homepage.

7. Establishing Subcommittees

The Statute permits the Council to establish subcommittees from within its membership to ensure that the council is meeting all specified goals.

Governance Subcommittee Recommendation:
From time to time, the Council may establish work groups, committees, or identify existing entities to carry out activities or tasks as defined by the Council. An established subcommittee can, when directed to do so by the Council, make recommendations to be considered as future agenda items discussed by the entire Council.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM IV: 2017 POINT IN TIME RESULTS

Background

Every two years, during the last ten days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local population experiencing homelessness at a single point in time. These counts measure the prevalence of homelessness in each community, and collect information on individuals and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing, as well as people sleeping on the streets, in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation. The number of people experiencing homelessness during the course of a year is estimated to be two to three times the point-in-time number.

The biennial Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, and is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Every Continuum of Care (CoC) nationwide report their local PIT Count data in their annual CoC funding application to HUD, which ultimately helps the federal government and CoCs better understand the nature and extent of homelessness. Count data also helps to inform communities' local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

Persons Experiencing Homelessness in California

On a single night in January 2017, California recorded the highest number of people experiencing homelessness. The total number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness as counted in the State's 2017 PIT Count was 134,278. In comparison to 2015, this was a 16 percent increase. In addition, California is the state with the largest *number* of people experiencing homelessness. Moreover, California has double the national *rate* of homelessness, 34 people per 10,000, compared to the national average of 17 people per 10,000.
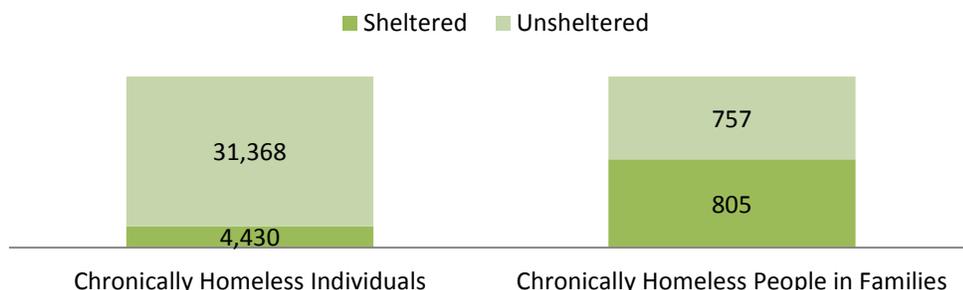
Unsheltered Homelessness

Unsheltered homelessness refers to people whose primary nighttime location is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people (for example, the streets, vehicles, or parks). California accounted for nearly half of all unsheltered people in the country (49% or 91,642 people). Three major California cities reported more than 80 percent of homeless individuals were unsheltered: Fresno (88%), Los Angeles (84%), and San Jose (82%). Of the number of chronically homeless statewide (37,360), nearly 84 percent are unsheltered chronically homeless individuals (31,368).

Chronic Homelessness
California has the largest population of people experiencing chronic homelessness in the United States. While other states have succeeded in decreasing the number of residents experiencing chronic homelessness, California's population continues to increase. California now has 42% of the nation's number of chronically homeless residents.

Estimates of Chronically Homeless Residents of California

■ Sheltered   ■ Unsheltered

	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Chronically Homeless Individuals	4,430	31,368
Chronically Homeless People in Families	805	757

Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2007-2017 PIT Counts by State, December 2017

Family Homelessness
A positive change is the decreased numbers of families experiencing homelessness. California saw a decline of five percent in 2017. Perhaps the decrease is a result of communities aligning local goals with Opening Doors[1]. Overall, we are making progress in reducing the numbers of homeless families statewide.
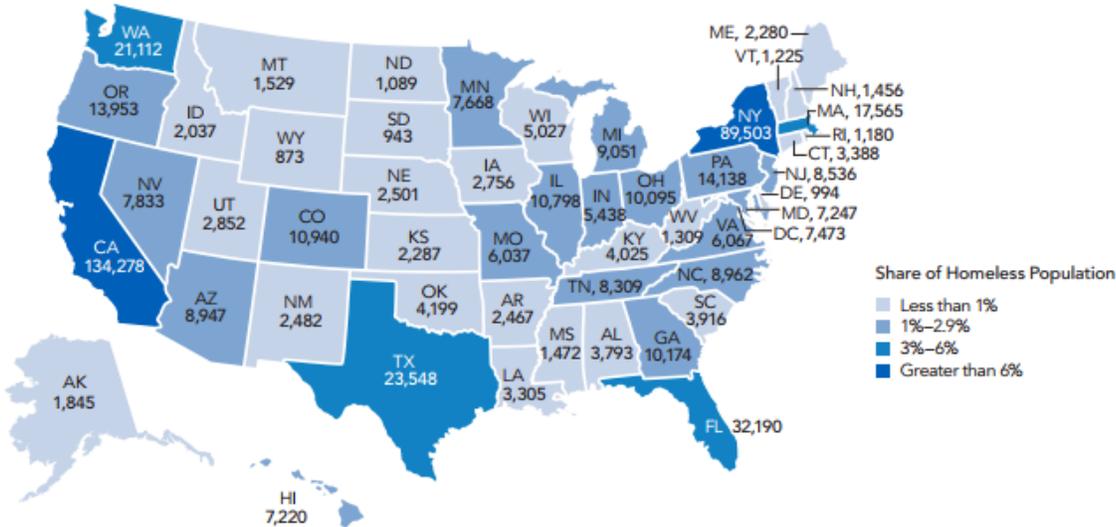
Homeless Youth
California has the largest number of homeless youth in the nation, with 38% of the nation's population. While methods of counting homeless youth have improved dramatically since 2015, the number of Californians under 25 experiencing homelessness far exceeds any other state.

Target Population	2015			2017		
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Homeless	42,039	73,699	115,738	42,636	91,642	134,278
Chronically Homeless	5,077	27,150	32,227	5,235	32,125	37,360
Veterans	4,309	7,002	11,311	11,472	3,815	15,287
Families	17,196	5,386	22,582	17,614	3,908	21,522
Unaccompanied Youth (Under 25)	2,464	7,952	10,416	2,709	12,749	15,458

Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2007-2017 PIT Counts by State, December 2017

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[1] Opening Doors is the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

EXHIBIT 1.6: Estimates of Homeless People
By State, 2017

Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, December 2017.

Reactions to the Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness
Sacramento: ABC News 10, July 10, 2017

In 2017, Sacramento County reported at least 2,052 unsheltered people representing an 85 percent increase over the numbers reported in 2015. In a press conference announcing the PIT results, City of Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg called on the County and Continuum of Care, Sacramento Steps Forward, to cooperatively work towards decreasing the number of people experiencing homelessness.

"We must consolidate our resources, we must have one system, one continuum of care working with Sacramento Steps Forward and everyone," Mayor Steinberg said. "And commit to that goal and achieve that goal, nothing short."

Los Angeles: LA Times, May 31, 2017

On a single night in January 2017, Los Angeles County reported 55,168 people experienced homelessness. This was a large increase (23 percent) over the numbers reported in 2016.

"There's no sugarcoating the bad news," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news conference where the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority released its report. "We can't let rents double every year. I was particularly disappointed to see veteran numbers go up."

HUD Secretary Ben Carson – December 6, 2017

"In many high-cost areas of our country, especially along the West Coast, the severe shortage of affordable housing is manifesting itself on our streets," said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. "With rents rising faster than incomes, we need to bring everybody to the table to produce more affordable housing and ease the pressure that is forcing too many of our neighbors into our shelters and onto our streets. This is not a federal problem—it's everybody's problem."

ACTION ITEM V: HOUSING FIRST CHECKLIST FOR HOUSING AND HOUSING AND HOUSING BASED SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

1. **Adopt the Housing First Checklist for Housing and Housing-Based Programs**

The Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8256(b), requires the following:

> *"By July 1, 2019, agencies and departments administering state programs . . . shall collaborate with the coordinating council to revise or adopt guidelines and regulations that incorporate the core components of Housing First, if the existing guidelines and regulations do not already incorporate the core components of Housing First."*

These requirements apply to any program that provides housing or housing-based services to people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness. Programs not intended to serve only people experiencing homelessness, but are providing housing or housing-based services to this population are subject to these requirements.

A key component of a Housing First approach is to prioritize people experiencing chronic homelessness within programs providing housing and housing-based services. California has the highest unmet need of housing options for people experiencing chronic homelessness, and no current State programs specifically prioritize this population.

The checklist on the following pages summarizes the core components of Housing First identified in the Statute.

Staff Recommendation:
The Council should adopt the checklist to assist all State housing or housing-based programs to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to meet the core components of Housing First identified in the Statute. If the Council adopts this recommendation, the checklist shall be used to offer recommended regulatory changes that would support the implementation of the Statute throughout California's State Programs.

2. Establish the Housing First Checklist Evaluation Schedule
The state agencies or departments will present their findings during a Council Meeting to spotlight their progress in adopting the core components of Housing First, and to provide an opportunity for the Council to discuss adopting Housing First standards.

Staff Recommendation:
In advance of the upcoming Council Meeting, the selected state agency or department should provide the Council with a Staff Report of all the recommendations or findings that would support the implementation of the requirements in the Statute. The proposed schedule below

includes state departments represented on the Council. However, the Council may expand list to include other state departments such as Department of Public Health, Department of Education, or the California Department of Transportation. Staff recommends the following evaluation schedule:

Representative Criteria	Quarterly Council Meeting
Department of Housing and Community Development	April 10, 2018
State Department of Social Services	July 11, 2018
California Housing Finance Agency	
State Department of Health Care Services	October 9, 2018
Department of Veterans Affairs	
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	Winter 2019
California Tax Credit Allocation Committee in the Treasurer's office	
Victim Services Program within the Division of Grants Management within the Office of Emergency Services	Spring 2019

3. **Establish An Interagency State Working Group**

The establishment of a small working group comprised of staff from agencies represented on the Council will help advance meeting discussions. The working group can be a platform where staff can review the Staff Report, identify any need for technical assistance, and learn from each other.

Staff Recommendation:

To accelerate meeting discussions, the Council shall establish a small workgroup comprised of staff from agencies represented on the Council. The group shall review all Staff Reports received, provide support, if needed, and report any findings back to the Council.

Tenant Screening:	Does the Program Require Providers Who House Tenants to Accept Applicants with the Greatest Needs or Vulnerabilities?				
State Programs	Providers Must Accept Tenants Regardless of Sobriety/ Completion of Treatment	Providers Do Not Reject Applicants for Poor Credit/ Financial History, Criminal Background	Providers May Not Impose a "Housing Readiness" Requirement on Applicants for Housing	Providers Receive Referrals to Housing from Homeless Response System	Program Offers Funding Incentives to Providers to Accept Referrals from Coordinated Entry/ Assessment Systems

Recommendations: The following language could be added to the program regulations and/or guidelines in order to meet bill requirements to reduce tenant screening barriers that are indicated above:

Housing-Based Services:	Are Services Tailored to Tenant's Needs, Rather Than to Meet Set Programmatic Requirements?			
State Programs	Services Providers are Required to Offer Services Emphasizing Engagement & Problem-Solving, Rather than Meeting Set Therapeutic Goals	Services Providers Use Evidence-Based Practices for Engagement	Services Providers Practice Harm Reduction and/or Recognize Drug/Alcohol Use As Part of Tenant's Lives & Recovery	Providers Offer Tenants Education on Avoiding Risky Behaviors, and Connect to Evidence-Based Treatment By Choice

Recommendations: The following language could be added to the regulations of prioritized programs for the Housing First approach in order to reduce housing-based services barriers that are indicated above:

Services Are Voluntary:	Does the Program Prohibit Conditioning Housing Tenancy on Tenant Participation in Services or Program Compliance?			
State Programs	Housing Providers Must Accept Most Vulnerable Californians Eligible for Program, Regardless of Applicant's Willingness to Participate in Services (though program may require services providers to offer services)		Program Disallows Housing/ Services Providers from Conditioning Tenancy on Participation in Services or Program Compliance	

Recommendations: The following language could be added to the program regulations and/or guidelines in order to meet bill requirements to ensure tenant engagement and prevent eviction that are indicated above:

Housing Permanency	Does the Program Require Housing Providers to Offer Housing Without Limit on Length of Stay, with a Lease? *If the Housing is Time-Limited, Is the Housing Provider Required to Connect Tenants to Permanent, Decent, and Safe Housing Upon Exit?*			
State Programs	Program Requires Housing Providers to Provide Tenants with Leases and Reflects Tenants' Rights & Responsibilities Of Tenancy Under CA Law *(including eviction protections)*	Program Disallows Housing Providers from Evicting Tenants for Use of Drugs/Alcohol w/o Lease Violations	Program Does Not Fund Time-Limited Housing, Unless Housing/ Services Providers Assist Tenants in Relocating to Decent, Safe Permanent Housing Tenant Can Afford Upon Exit	If Funding Homeless Youth Program, Any Time-Limited Housing Documents Efforts to Avoid Eviction & Help Tenant Find Permanent, Decent, Safe Housing

Recommendations: The following language could be added to the program regulations and/or guidelines in order to meet bill requirements to ensure permanent exit from homelessness, indicated above:

ACTION ITEM VI: PRIORITIZATION OF THE 2018 COUNCIL'S TASKS AND ACTIONS

Homelessness affects multiple systems in California. The Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8257(b) requires the Council to perform various tasks and actions such as identifying mainstream resources used to address homelessness, maximizing federal funding while leveraging local funds, and ensuring programs touching Californians experiencing homelessness are as effective as possible. The Council should be a platform that fosters collaboration among state agencies and local governments. To ensure the Council meets the goals specified in Statute, Staff consulted the following experts:

- Katy Miller, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USCIH) Regional Coordinator for the Northwest Region,
- Cathy ten Broeke, State Director to Prevent and End Homelessness, Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness.
- Linda Glasssman, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, New York Interagency Council on Homelessness.
- Janet Irrer, Michigan State Housing Development Authority Homeless Programs Manager, Michigan Interagency Council

The panel of experts provided substantial input based on their experience establishing and supporting their respective Interagency Councils. Staff summarized their comments into the following recommendations:

1. 2018 Council Tasks and Actions

Cathy ten Broeke, Minnesota State Director to Prevent and End Homelessness, advised the Council to consider tangible goals with milestones. She challenged the Council to declare specific goals that could be achieved within twenty-four months. Minnesota's Interagency Council on Homelessness developed a two-year action plan, *Heading Home,* to guide the State's efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

Katy Miller, USCIH Regional Coordinator, advised the Council to focus on collecting uniform baseline data on homelessness. This will allow the Council to rely on actual data to learn about and address homelessness issues in the State. Uniform data collection on homelessness will also support data sharing efforts across state agencies and state departments.

Linda Glassman, New York State Interagency Council on Homelessness, advised the Council to create smaller working committees of department staff and department leadership to address the Council's larger efforts. She also reminded the Council that the interagency work can be staff-intensive and that it is important to have staff continuity in overseeing the progress of the Council's activities, particularly between quarterly meetings.

Janet Irrer, Michigan State Housing Development Authority Homeless Programs Manager, said the Michigan Interagency Council owes their success to, "the structure of Michigan's Campaign (to end homelessness) . . ., as it allows state agencies to work together to meet our common goal and avoid duplication of efforts."

Staff Recommendation:
The Council should consider prioritizing the following goals:

Statutory Goal	Recommended Council Action	Achieved in the next 18 months (Yes or No)
Section 8257 (b) (1) & (7)	Authorize the newly created interagency working group to build a comprehensive list of state homeless programs.	**Yes**
	Conduct a needs analysis to provide Council with data on need throughout the State.	**Yes**
Section 8257 (b) (5)	Streamline efforts and reduce redundancies by looking for opportunities to provide input on design or development of programs impacting homeless Californians.	**Yes**
Section 8256 (a)	Authorize a newly created interagency working group to provide technical assistance to agencies as they adopt and incorporate the core components of Housing First.	**Yes**
Section 8257 (b) (3)	Act as a policy development resource on ending homelessness in California by setting basic expectations for all California Coordinated Entry Systems, and goals for how State programs could interact with these coordinated entry systems.	**Yes**
Section 8257 (b) (13)	Authorize a newly created interagency working group to develop a scope of work and implementation plan for building a statewide data warehouse that receives data from local Homeless Management Information Systems.	**Yes**
	Explore opportunities to access HUD technical assistance to develop a data warehouse.	**Yes**
Section 8257 (10)	Summarize the Council's work and progress in a cumulative report to the legislature.	**Yes**

2.   Establish a Working Group to Prioritize Statutory Goals

Katy Miller, USICH Regional Coordinator, advised the Council to rely on an interagency working group, made up of department staff, toward achieving the goals specified in the Statute. USICH is comprised of 19 federal agencies that meet four times per year to advance federal collaboration and coordination. In between Council meetings, USICH convenes interagency working groups focused on key issues and activities. These meetings all focus on identifying high-impact strategies and aligning efforts to achieve the goals of Opening Doors. Opening Doors, released in 2010 and updated in 2015, is the nation's first comprehensive federal strategy to prevent and end homelessness.

Staff Recommendation:

The Council shall establish a working group of staff working for agencies and departments sitting on the Council, which shall be tasked with assisting members with the prioritization of the goals identified in statute.