



**Meeting Minutes
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, August 30, 2023
2:00pm – 3:30pm
Ventura County Office of Education
5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo**

- 1. Call to Order:** Dawn Dyer, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:09pm.

Board Members: Manuel Minjares, Jack Edelstein, Ingrid Hardy, Michael Nigh, Dr. Sevet Johnson, Paul Drevenstedt, Pauline Preciado, Stefany Gonzalez, Kevin Clerici, Juliana Gallardo, Emilio Ramirez, Dawn Dyer (attended online)

Absent: Mara Malch

Staff: Jennifer Harkey, Alicia Morales-McKinney, Christy Madden, Felipe Flores, Morgan Saveliff

- 2. Board Comments:** No board comments

- 3. CoC Staff Comments:** Jenn Harkey congratulated the cities of Oxnard and Thousand Oaks on being awarded State grants for the Encampment Resolution Funding. Jenn shared that the CoC will be partnering with the cities to help move unsheltered people living in encampments to immediate shelter and permanent housing. Jenn also thanked several partners such as Healthcare for the Homeless, the Sheriff's department, Oxnard law enforcement, and street outreach teams. Jenn shared that the City of Thousand Oaks has partnered with Dignity Moves, Many Mansions, and Hope of the Mission to develop their first 24/7 shelter with 30 beds. Jenn further reminded the board of the Shared Housing Webinar tomorrow at 11am. The training will be recorded and a link for the training will be posted on the CoC Website by next week.

- 4. Public Comments:** Elizabeth R. Stone (attendee) shared that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) intends to amend the CalAIM Section 1115 demonstration to provide transitional rent services. Elizabeth shared that the letter to the public is available and open for comment before it is submitted to CMS. Elizabeth also shared that many service providers continue to earn minimum wage and highlighted the importance of direct service providers earning a living wage as a crucial part of program effectiveness.

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

- 5. Approval of Board Minutes from August 9, 2023.**

Michael Nigh moved for approval; Jack Edelstein was second; Ingrid abstained; the balance of the Board was in favor.

- 6. Review the 2023 Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC) Rank and Review Policy to ensure an understanding of the federal priorities and local scoring process.**

Jenn Harkey reviewed the Rank and Review Policy and process with the board. Jenn also shared that HUD reduced the amount of annual renewal demand available in tier 1 from 95% to 93% which means 7% of the full allocation is at risk of not being renewed.

Jack Edelstein asked if every renewal project must re-apply and be re-approved. Jenn shared that renewals must reapply annually. Kevin asked if the CoC will be taking a role in increasing housing supply and working with local jurisdictions as it was included in the HUD application. Jenn shared that the CoC has worked with

local jurisdictions as far as attending planning commission meetings, however, advocacy related to local jurisdictions is new to our CoC and the scoring on the HUD application is minimal. Dawn thanked CoC staff for their work on the scoring of projects and inquired about the requirement of program participants to increase their income other than employment. Jenn shared that HUD has that goal to ensure that PSH participants are being connected to all benefits and shared that SOAR training was emphasized on the application to show that participants are being connected to social security benefits when appropriate.

7. Review and Approve the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Funding Recommendations as Developed by the VC CoC Data Committee and Authorize Staff to Submit the Consolidated Application to HUD by September 28, 2023

Jenn reviewed the scoring of all renewal and new projects and shared the data committee's ranking recommendations for the board. Jenn shared that VCBH's renewal project is currently teetered between tier 1 and 2 and that historically, projects that have been split between two tiers have been fully funded. Jenn also shared the data committee's recommendation that the Many Mansions Central Terrace PSH project in the amount of \$229,779 be included in the consolidated application and MESA for the remaining \$85,334 with the contingency that they adjust their outcome goals.

Susan Whitewood, the Housing Manager for VCBH, shared that the VCBH PSH project scored low due to various factors: ineligible referrals received, returned grant funding due to difficulty securing rentals within FMR, and cost effectiveness. Susan shared that if VCBH loses funding, it would result in a family becoming homeless.

Kevin clarified the current ranking recommendations and inquired if the board has discretion to realign the ranking if needed. Jenn shared that it is at the board's discretion of how the projects are ranked and reminded the board that the ranking is based on scores and the project that scored above VCBH is also a PSH project. Jenn also reminded that board that historically all projects that have teetered between tier one and tier two have been fully funded, however, if some of the funding were not renewed, alternate sources of funding would be considered to ensure that one household remains housed through PSH. Board members discussed the FMR tiers and tools such as Rent Reasonableness to secure rentals for PSH households. Elizabeth Stone shared that it was discussed at the data committee meeting that the VCBH project is a scattered site model and offered the suggestion of partnering to create a move on model where those who are in project-based units and are ready to be more independent could eventually move into scattered site units.

Kevin moved to approve the data committee HUD CoC program funding recommendations; Pauline Preciado was second; Michael Nigh and Dawn Dyer abstained; the balance of the Board was in favor.

Additional items not on the agenda: No further comment.

Next meeting set for October 11th, 2023
Meeting adjourned at 3:16pm