



Meeting Agenda
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, May 8, 2024
2:00pm – 3:30pm
Ventura County Office of Education
5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo

Zoom Meeting ID: 871 1841 0223

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87118410223>

1. Call to Order
2. Board Comments
3. CoC Staff Comments
4. Public Comments: Public Comment is an opportunity for the public to participate in public meetings by addressing the Ventura County Continuum of Care Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person during the opening part of the meeting and per item. The time allotment can be increased or decreased by the Chair depending on the number of speakers. This meeting is subject to the Brown Act and public comments may be submitted by using one of the following options:

Email in advance of the meeting: If you wish to make a written public comment, the comment must be submitted via email no later than 4:30pm on the day prior to the Board meeting. Send emails to: venturacoc@ventura.org Please indicate the agenda item you would like to speak on if relevant and whether you would like your message read by staff or you will be participating and would like to provide your comments during the live meeting.

During the meeting: Participants attending online may use the chat function in zoom to indicate they would like to make a comment. Participants attending in-person can complete a public comment card indicating which item they would like to comment on and submit to the Board Chair. Staff will call on participants during the public comment section of the meeting or during specific item following staff presentation of the item.

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

5. Approval of Board Minutes from March 13, 2024.
6. Approval of Board Minutes from April 10, 2024.
7. Receive and file a report on the Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus (ESG-CV) Program
8. Receive a presentation on the 2024 State of Homelessness
9. Receive an Update on the VC/CoC Upcoming Housing List



**Meeting Minutes
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
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 2:01pm.

Board Members: Dawn Dyer, Michael Nigh, Mara Malch, Pauline Preciado, Juliana Gallardo, Ingrid Hardy, Emilio Ramirez, Jack Edelstein

Absent: Dr. Sevet Johnson, Manuel Minjares, Kevin Clerici, Stefany Gonzalez, Paul Drevenstedt

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

Board Comments: Michael Nigh shared that the Section 8 list for Area Housing Authority was open for two weeks and 5,800 applications were received. Julianna Gallardo shared that People’s Self Help is accepting applications for People’s Place in Santa Paula. Applications are available on the People’s Self Help website: <https://www.pshhc.org/ppl/>. Pauline Preciado shared that Gold Coast Health Plan has launched a new program offering housing deposit assistance for GCHP Medi-Cal members.

- 2. CoC Staff Comments:** Christy Madden shared that the Department of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity has been monitoring how waitlists are managed and has criticized projects that open first-come, first-serve online-only indicating that it may be discriminatory to certain populations. Christy encouraged the Board to keep this in mind as we ensure that all housing opportunities are fair. Jenn Harkey attended the meeting online and thanked the Board for coming. Jenn further shared that members of the CoC team had the opportunity to attend the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference and will elaborate on item 7.
- 3. Public Comments:** Elizabeth R. Stone (online attendee) reminded the Board that the PLE workgroup is available as a resource and encouraged the PLE workgroup members in attendance to introduce themselves. The following PLE members were in attendance: Montoya Johnson, Craig Ford, Michael Well, and Mike Duan.

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

- 4. Approval of Board Minutes from February 14, 2024.**

Elizabeth R. Stone requested that the following sentence be added to the description of the presentation provided in Item 7: “A summary of findings was provided along with training opportunities.”

Jack Edelstein moved for approval with the suggested amendment to the minutes; Pauline was second; Ingrid Hardy abstained; the balance of the Board was in favor.

- 5. Receive and file a report on FY23 U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Program Competition Debriefing**

Jenn Harkey shared the HUD CoC Program Competition Debriefing with the Board. The full debriefing can be found on the CoC website. Jenn reviewed several areas of improvement for system performance including: First Time Homeless, Length of Time Homeless, Placements in Permanent Housing, Returns to Homelessness and Job and Income Growth. Jenn shared that with new units coming online in 2024, the

hope is that more people will move into permanent housing and out of shelter which should reduce the length of time people are experiencing homelessness. Jenn further shared that placements into permanent housing did increase from last year, but we still need more supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and landlords willing to accept funds and collaborate. Jenn further shared that the CoC is prioritizing improving supportive services in efforts to reduce returns to homelessness. Jenn shared that HHAP 5 funding can be used to bridge gaps and bring additional supportive services for new PSH units coming online this year. Jenn further shared the Second Chance Act grant with VCBH will be providing additional peer support to help those with mental health challenges and criminal backgrounds. Jenn lastly shared that we scored really well with coordination and engagement specifically with the CalAim partnership with GCHP, coordination with domestic violence organizations, and improving coordination within the criminal justice system. Jenn also highlighted some upcoming HHAP funded programs including partnerships with colleges, United Way, and new Homekey projects that will all help improve system performance measures.

Ingrid Hardy inquired where we stand in relationship to other CoCs and if they are experiencing similar challenges. Jenn shared that many CoCs within the SoCal alliance have reported similar challenges and have reached out to collaborate and share strategies on how to improve SPMs. Jenn further shared that the median score was 151 and we received a score of 155. Board members discussed the option of collaborating with independently owned and operated ADU units, however, it was discussed that ADUs are not an affordable option and are often utilized for family members or the primary home is also often leased. Elizabeth R. Stone reminded the Board that PLE members can support staff with improving system performance outcomes and scoring. Jenn Harkey agreed and highlighted the importance of PLE participation in decisions, policy making, and work-flow improvement. Jenn shared that a lot of this work is being done at the committee level and recommendations go back to the Board. Jenn shared that the Supportive Services Plan is being developed at the Housing and Services Committee and encouraged people with lived experience to participate in those committee meetings.

6. Receive and file VC CoC Committee, Workgroups and Staff updates

Felipe Flores provided the following updates on VC CoC Committees: the Housing and Services committee is reviewing best practices and developing a Supportive Services Plan; the HMIS steering committee is continuing to onboard programs into HMIS, most recently including the Ventura's Public Defender's Office; the Data Performance and Evaluation Committee reviewed and analyzed the latest Quarterly System Performance report and reviewed proposals for ESG and HHAP and developed recommendations for the Board; the Public Information and Outreach Committee is working on creating infographics for PRK and videos for PRK client success stories; the Veteran's Case Conference Workgroup has been meeting bi-weekly to update the Veteran By Name List and to case conference and complete referrals including VASH referrals which are now being made through the By Name List meetings; and The Youth Collaborative Workgroup worked together to ensure all youth were counted during the 2024 PIT Count. CoC staff also attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in San Francisco and attended various sessions on a variety of topics such as Creative Housing Solutions, Encampment Resolutions, Shelter Best Practices, Shared Housing and Master-Leasing, etc. Felipe shared that CoC staff will be meeting with LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) to view their shared housing model as we work to develop our own. Alicia shared that she attended a workshop by VCAAA and highlighted a few data points: older adults will make up 40% of the rental population by 2038, \$457 dollars is affordable rent to an older adult and \$257 dollars is affordable to an older adult who is on social security disability.

A public attendee inquired if there are showers available for people who are experiencing homelessness. CoC staff explained that One Stop offers different shower pods around the county; locations and times can be found on the Healthcare Agency website.

7. Receive and File a Report on Actions of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors Implementing Recommendations from the LeSar Updated Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Christy Madden shared a presentation on the actions taken by the Board of Supervisors on February 27th, 2024 to implement improvements to the homeless services system. The presentation is available in the 3.13.24 Board Packet on the CoC website. Christy shared that the Board of Supervisors approved the creation of 15 full-time positions across various departments, directed the Human Services Agency to apply for HHAP 5 funding for homeless prevention (2 positions created for this effort), directed an expansion of the fair housing program, advised agencies and partners to collaborate and establish a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) and approved the expansion of the Sherriff Homeless Liaison Unit (8 deputies and 2 command staff positions created for this effort), created two new positions for a homelessness solutions director and a housing solutions director, advised the pursuit of a new HMIS vendor (a new HMIS position created for this effort), and prioritized the inclusion of lived experience in planning and decision making.

Public attendees inquired regarding the county investment in staffing. CoC staff and Board members explained the investment in staffing is for program operations, facilitation of the utilization of funding, and to secure additional funding needed to dedicate more resources to preventing and ending homelessness.

8. Ratify the changes to the fully executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County of Ventura for the development and implementation of the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan.

Alicia Morales-McKinney reminded the Board that in January the CoC Board authorized the Chair to sign an MOU for the HHAP 5 grant application. Alicia shared that the MOU is a requirement to submit the HHAP 5 application. Alicia shared that the MOU formatting was revised to align with traditional MOU structures, however, the content and intent of the document remains the same. Alicia shared the original MOU and the fully executed MOU with the Board.

Michael Nigh moved for approval; Jack Edelstein was second; all in favor.

Additional items not on the agenda: none

Next meeting set for April 10th, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 3:32pm



**Meeting Minutes
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
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 2:00pm.

Board Members: Pauline Preciado, Mara Malch, Jack Edelstein, Paul Drevenstedt, Dawn Dyer, Juliana Gallardo, Manuel Minjares, Ingrid Hardy, Stefany Gonzalez

Absent: Dr. Sevet Johnson, Kevin Clerici, Emilio Ramirez, Michael Nigh

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

2. **Board Comments:** Dawn Dyer invited everyone to attend the Housing Trust Fund Ventura County Annual Compassion Campaign event on Thursday, May 9th from 5-8pm at the Walnut Grove in Moorpark.
3. **CoC Staff Comments:** Jenn Harkey shared that the CoC has been working on the Second Chance act initiative with Ventura County Behavioral Health, Ventura County Probation Office, and the Public Defender's Office. The initiative will provide peer support services for those who are experiencing homelessness and have criminal justice involvement. The intent is to connect people to supportive services whether they are unsheltered, in shelter, or in permanent supportive housing. Jenn lastly shared that the Public Defender's office will act as an entry point into HMIS to help connect and refer people to services. Felipe Flores also shared that HUD officially deemed the ESG-CV grant closed yesterday. Felipe shared that the grant started in December 2020, funds were expended by December 31st, 2023, and HUD has officially deemed the grant closed. Felipe shared that we were originally allotted \$651,000 and due to our partner's good work, the final allocation was 1.7 million. The grant provided rapid rehousing, street outreach, emergency shelter, and housing prevention throughout the county. Felipe highlighted several partners including: Gold Coast Veteran's Foundation, Harbor House, the Human Services Agency, Mercy House, Interface, Lutheran Social Services, Turning Point, and United Way.
4. **Public Comments:** Elizabeth R. Stone read and provided a letter to Board (attached)

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

5. **Approval of Board Minutes from March 13, 2024.**

Paul Drevenstedt explained that he was documented as having seconded a couple items, however, he was absent from last month's meeting. The recording of last month's meeting will be reviewed, and the minutes will be updated accordingly. This item will be moved to next month's meeting for approval.

6. **Receive and file a report on the Ventura County Homeless Management Information System and Pathways to Home Coordinated Entry System.**

Chris Russel presented a report on VC HMIS/PTH CES. The full report can be viewed in the April Board Packet on the CoC Website. Chris discussed the online training system that has been developed for

users and shared various data points with the Board. Chris shared that there are currently 40 participating agencies in HMIS and 231 users. From 7/1/23 -2/29/24, Chris reported that 5 new agency onboarding requests were received, 2146 referrals were completed through the system, and 47 clients were matched with housing opportunities, of which 16 households were placed into permanent supportive housing. During this time frame, the average length of time from referral to housing placement was 161 days. Chris further shared current priorities for HMIS including researching and analyzing if our current vendor is meeting our needs. Lastly, Chris shared that the HMIS/CES team was allocated a new position based on the LeSar report and the position has been filled but won't likely be on-boarded until the end of June.

Board members inquired if trainings are available only to HMIS users or also to broader service providers. Chris explained that the HMIS trainings are only available to licensed HMIS users. Jenn Harkey shared that the Programs Training offered through the CoC is available upon request to any agencies that work with people who are unhoused or at risk of homelessness. This training covers resources available in the community and how to make referrals and get people connected to services. Board members highlighted challenges with reporting and inquired regarding our current system's capabilities surrounding ad hoc reporting and data dashboards. Chris and Jenn explained that the HMIS team will be researching the capabilities of our current system in comparison to other vendors and will be creating an analysis which will be brought back to the Board to make final decisions.

7. Receive the Ventura County 2024 Homeless Count Preliminary Data Report and Authorize Staff to Submit the Final Point In Time Count and Housing Inventory County Reports to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) no later than April 30, 2024.

Jenn reviewed the 2024 Homeless Count Preliminary Data Report and various data points with the Board. The full report can be found on the CoC Website. Jenn shared that the total number of sheltered persons increased 14.7% from last year and the unsheltered count decreased 12.4% from last year. Jenn explained that the overall combined sheltered and unsheltered count decreased by 3.4% from last year. Jenn explained that further subpopulation and jurisdiction data will be provided in the final report. Jenn lastly reviewed the recommendations to prevent and end homelessness that were approved by the Board in April 2023 and inquired if the Board would like to make any changes. Jenn explained that the approved recommendations will go into the final report county-wide and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in May and a request for an endorsement at the county level will be made.

Public attendees shared their experiences with homelessness and the difficulties of counting everyone actively experiencing homelessness in the County. Ingrid Hardy inquired as to why the number of first time homeless dropped significantly from last year. Jenn shared that with the switch to Simtech solutions mobile app, the first-time homeless questions were worded slightly different which may have had an impact on how questions were answered. Jenn explained that data on how long people were experiencing homelessness and how long people have been in the community will be in the full report, which will give us a better understanding of how long people have been experiencing homelessness in our community. Jack Edelstein inquired as to why the number of people experiencing domestic violence increased significantly from the previous year. Jenn clarified that this question does not necessarily mean that someone is actively feeling domestic violence but that they may have experienced it in the past. Jenn shared that there has been increased education surrounding domestic violence in our community and increased awareness could have contributed to the increase in those numbers. The Board recommended expanding the 4th recommendation to read: "Encourage each jurisdiction to review their 2024 unsheltered homeless count and ensure alignment with local strategies to reduce unsheltered homelessness"

Manuel Minjares moved for approval; Ingrid Hardy was second; All in favor.

8. Authorization to Release a Request for Proposals for a Qualified Organization to Engage People with Lived Experience of Homelessness and Approve CoC Planning Grant Funds to be Allocated for the Contract.

Jenn requested the Board to authorize the release of a new RFP for a new contract to partner with people with lived experience. Jenn explained this would be a one-year contract with 95,000 in CoC planning grant funds. The new contract would start October 1st, 2024. The Board requested that the draft RFP be brought back for review to ensure that expectations on outcomes and reporting are clear.

Jack Edelstein moved for approval for the CoC to release the RFP; Pauline Preciado was second; all in favor.

Additional items not on the agenda: none

Next meeting set for June 12th, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 3:37pm



FIND: A Friend in Deed

2437 Grand Avenue Suite E
Ventura, CA 93003

April 10, 2024

I would like to start by once again reminding Board members that we - members of the Making Space Project who bring our expertise earned by life experiences - are here and available as resources and partners in the ongoing process of seeking ways to continually improve which, and how, services are offered to people who are or who have experienced being homeless or unsheltered.

I would like to highlight that even though our participation is mandated by HUD, and Ventura County's sustained lack of commitment to fully incorporating our voices in various processes has led to loss of scoring and thus funding, we are supremely appreciative of Director Jenn Harkey who has done much and continues to lead in clearing the way for greater acceptance and opportunities for the legitimization of our place at decision-making venues.

I would also like to explicitly state that even with all of Jenn's coaching and nudging, each one of us feels deeply hurt and ever more frustrated by what feels like an inability for much of what we keep sharing to be adopted and incorporated. This often, then, manifests in speech that is perceived as angry, or questions that are taken to be challenging. Granted, it IS our role to challenge what does not work well; not just accepting what is, but advocating for what could be.

I will also acknowledge that at times when the hurt and frustration that builds while sitting through meetings about us that deny our realities is piled onto the long-term unhealed trauma that most of us carry, it can in some members sound antagonistic. So, again, I would like to remind everyone that we are here as resources and partners.

During the February meeting, I made a presentation that summarized the lessons we have learned over a year-and-a-half of concerted meeting, listening, and discussing what was most disheartening about the experiences of being homeless in Ventura County. This is qualitative research that assembles repeated themes and then promotes suggested actions. And it exemplifies the best of outcomes reporting.

Once again, it was dismissed and misconstrued leading to a rather bizarre letter being sent to NHF (the fiscal sponsor) and to me as the lead facilitator and convenor of

the Making Space Project. Specifically it asked for numbers of events and stated that we were not in fact doing what I had just reported on, and had been speaking about at every single CoC Board meeting I have attended and been allowed to speak at. (If you were there or recall, during the initial months of the grant, I was not allowed to speak on agenda items.)

Interestingly, somehow when formally written on official letterhead, this demanding tone placed on top of gross misapprehension of what we feel a need to state repeatedly (for example via the same slides) because it is not getting through is acceptable, although my inquiring about facts of how a program is being delivered because I hear contrasting accounts is interpreted as ruffling feathers and results in calls to Jenn wondering who do I think I am and what do I think I am doing. I am doing due diligence.

And I am speaking up for the people who repeatedly tell me they are afraid to say anything because they will be punished by being denied even the most basic assistance; who also, **MISSION:** FIND: A Friend in Deed brings cutting-edge evidence-based practices grounded in lived expertise to recipients and providers of behavioral healthcare working at the intersections of mental health, substance misuse, justice-system involvement, and being unhoused.

by the way, have cheered my speaking up after a meeting, and thanked me for being the only person to raise their concerns.

The Making Space Project is the CONDUIT for those voices.

So: We have been making feedback and recommendations since Day One. At every meeting I and others comment whenever we have something of value and unique to offer. Specific impacts we have had include: an additional focus on Supportive Services; considering living wages for direct care/line staff when assessing funding; looking at longer-term results than 'graduated' or 'placed' to see where an individual is six months to a year later; revamping the food delivered to folks in Project Roomkey to better meet their needs and for greater actual consumption; and disaggregating data for individuals who have been homeless for a year or less from those who have been unsheltered for longer. Additionally, over the past year, at multiple in-person CoC Board meetings, educational materials on best- and on evidence-based practices have been brought and offered, as well as relevant studies forwarded to CoC staff on a regular basis.

Mentoring and peer support - including what would often be considered case management and direct material support - have always been offered on a regular and as-needed basis. At any time six to ten people are receiving more intense support, while many others (50-60) over the year-and-a-half life of the Project have received some level of support, direction, and/or referrals.

The core group of people shifts over time - as it does for most groups - for a number of reasons. Many people become too frustrated with the apparent lack of progress and just lose hope. For some, as their life circumstances get more challenging, their participation is no longer a priority. And for one vocal member, as the weather warmed, the lure of being outside drinking was just much stronger than attending meetings. Until recently, I would stop and speak with multiple individuals I encountered while just doing daily tasks. Mostly when I am able to build a strong connection people's main request is to get on a housing list, yet since I have been denied access to HMIS twice it feels frustrating and almost like a betrayal to get their hopes up when I cannot actually do anything concrete for them. Many of us have connections with people living in various encampments or in vehicles, so get intermittent reports, or take informal polls about issues as they arise.

The deciding criteria for whether information and concerns get chosen to be brought forward are twofold: They are clearly related to safety; or they are heard from multiple parties. Often this means a text, call, or email to Jenn. If time is not an issue, they will be raised in various policy venues. In this way, it would be a low estimate to suggest that experiences from over 150 individuals have been incorporated into the report given in February.

Which, by the way, I opened my report stating, and explicitly restated during the presentation, that the information was based on conversations - some on a regular basis - with over 150 people, that I was giving an overview of the lessons we have learned, and what was needed to address the discrepancy between what people would like to see - meaning what were the qualities of services that would assist with bringing them inside - and what currently exists. The majority of people's concerns centered around the way they are perceived by the public, and how they are treated by providers - which of course, are related. Hence the desire to conduct trainings with staff.

This offer of trainings has not gotten traction. I understand even retaining a workforce is currently challenging. And the dynamics in Ventura seem to be especially adverse to people being open to being educated about other ways of doing things. After almost a year, it was only this

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Sunday that we even offered a preliminary overview on peer services at the Recuperative Care program - which is run by our fiscal agent and where we have held weekly groups for many months. To my face, a few organizations feign interest, but none have followed through.

So again I put this invitation out to Board members. Training is my forte and I have given conference presentations and done organizational training and development for more than thirty years. A list of previous topics and settings is available.

Similarly, there has been little traction in East County. LSS and Harbor House declined involvement. I attended several resource events at Many Mansions properties and spoke with their Social Services Director; but again there was not follow up. The individuals with whom I have spoken who are service recipients or who are unhoused call me to ask for assistance - and again, there is little concrete that I can currently offer.

Based on this, we have decided to make a few changes during the second half of the current contract. First, we will be moving to a fully field-based operation. We will no longer maintain a physical office space. Second, we will be seeking to 'hire' (via stipend) an East County liaison. This needs to be a person with recent lived experience of being unhoused, and who has pre-existing relationships with other individuals.

And third, given the ubiquitous lack of understanding throughout the County about the value of people with direct lived expertise, combining with funds from the grant awarded to FIND by DHCS, we will be offering a series of Community-based Educational Forums.

Lastly, I would like to say how discouraging it was to receive a letter rather than an invitation to have a conversation when there seemed to be so many misunderstandings and outstanding questions. We all know the ability to sit with those whose life experiences are different from ours can be uncomfortable, and there seems to be a general consensus that everyone is losing the ability to have civil conversations. Both of these epitomize why people chose to not be a part of mainstream society, and choose to create their own communities outside. A great starting place would be for anyone around this table who is interested to convene a non-alcoholic get-together to begin to bridge these disconnections. The participants of the Making Space project are certainly more than willing.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth R. Stone, MA

(list of trainings enclosed)

Elizabeth R. Stone, MA, Founding Coordinator
FIND: A Friend in Deed = Peer Directed Services and Advocacy
(a.friend.in.deed.ventura@gmail.com)

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May 8, 2024

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive and file a report on the Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus (ESG CV) Program

BACKGROUND: At the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the CA State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) initially awarded the VC CoC \$651,300.00 in grant funds under a special Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (ESG CV) program. Thanks to the demonstrated need and effective use of funds by community partners, an additional allocation of \$1,120,000.00 was awarded, bringing the final ESG CV award total to \$1,771,300.00. With these funds, partners were able to sustain and expand invaluable Street Outreach (SO), Emergency Shelter (ES), and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) services throughout the County.

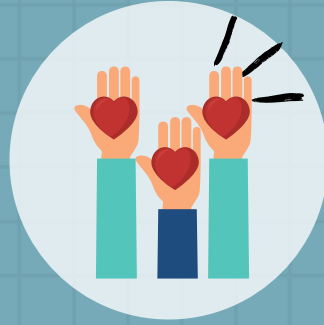
DISCUSSION: For Street Outreach, our community partners were able to conduct deeper outreach and connect with a greater number of families and individuals than originally proposed. Outreach services and engagement from all our partners provided assistance to 427 persons. Services provided a wide range of assistance covering items such as basic, yet critical items such as groceries, meals, clothes, rides to medical appointments, as well as outreach staff salaries. Services were offered on a consistent basis, thanks to other leveraged grants and donations procured by partner fundraising.

With Rapid Rehousing, our service providers and partners were able to recruit and engage with new landlords to provide housing units. ESG CV funds were leveraged with other grants and were able to provide rental assistance to 133 persons. These funds allowed additional individuals, families and veterans experiencing homelessness secure permanent housing despite challenging conditions during the pandemic. This resulted in preserving family units and livelihoods at a consistent and reliable average of one household per week during the entire term of grant.

Throughout the pandemic, our partners also served 313 persons by providing safe sleep and shelter through motels and emergency shelters – including bottled water, food boxes and hot meals. By providing shelter nights, our service providers greatly reduced the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks among our most vulnerable population and provided case management with housing navigation services.

While our County, VC CoC and partners valued enormous program success with the awarded funds, our community appreciated immense relief and safety during the height of the pandemic.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT – CORONAVIRUS, 12/22/2020 – 12/31/2023 PROGRAM SUMMARY



OVERVIEW

Original Award Amount \$651,300
Final allocation: \$1,771,300

Thanks to the Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus (ESG CV), our community was able to sustain and expand invaluable **Street Outreach**, **Emergency Shelter** and **Rapid Rehousing** services throughout the County

RAPID REHOUSING

allotted \$594,073
93 households
received rental assistance
113 individuals

assisted by Landlord Engagement Programs

United Way housed **98** individuals across 46 different participating properties

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

allotted \$920,057
313 persons

received aid from emergency shelters

25,000+ Food Boxes

offered, in addition to hot meals and other essential supplies

STREET OUTREACH

allotted \$169,300
427 persons

were assisted with obtaining benefits, getting on housing lists, groceries, meals, clothes, prescription medicines, rides to job interviews and medical appointments

ESG CV and partners provided **CONSISTENT** assistance, **REDUCED** COVID-19 outbreaks, and **PROVIDED** substantial and necessary aid for those experiencing homelessness. Grant funds for the different components were pumped straight into the local economy, helping encourage consumer spending, including creating and preserving jobs



May 8, 2024

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive a presentation on the 2024 State of Homelessness in Ventura County.

Background: This presentation includes data from the 2024 Homeless Point In Time Count and Housing Inventory Count. The reports are submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the requirements of receiving Continuum of Care grant funding. This data helps to inform the VC CoC Board and stakeholders in our community about the needs as well as trends in the populations experiencing homelessness. A copy of the 2024 Homeless Count Executive Summary is posted on the VC CoC website at www.venturacoc.org.

Discussion: The 2024 Homeless Count shows an overall decrease of 3.4% from the prior year. This is the first decrease since 2017. Additionally, the number of unsheltered adults who became homeless for the first time in the past year has decreased from 39% in 2023 to 17% in 2024. The Housing Inventory Count shows an increased number of persons served in shelters and transitional housing, as well as several new projects under development. The final written report is being developed in partnership with Dr. Joe Colletti at Urban Initiatives and will include subpopulation data and detailed information for each jurisdiction.

Presentation materials will be provided at the VC CoC Board meeting on May 8, 2024 and posted on the VC CoC website at www.venturacoc.org.

May 8, 2024

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive an Update on the VC/CoC Upcoming Housing List

BACKGROUND: In response to the VC CoC's Board request, CoC Staff has prepared a list of upcoming permanent supportive housing units to be filled through the Coordinated Entry System (CES).

DISCUSSION: In addition to the 500 persons that have already exited from Project Roomkey (PRK) to permanent housing or other temporary housing since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, community partners and the CoC continue efforts to connect, prioritize and match the remaining 98 PRK participants for housing units currently in development. There are numerous supportive housing resources coming online to be filled through the Coordinated Entry System as summarized in the attached spreadsheet. Key projects anticipated to become available in the next year include: In Oxnard, Central Terrace (35 units) and Casa Aliento (69 units), in Ventura the Valentine Road Homekey project (134 units), US Vets (54 units), and in the unincorporated area Rancho Sierra (24 units on Lewis Road). Additionally, 12 units of interim housing are scheduled to open for transition aged youth at Mesa in the unincorporated area of Ojai this summer. In all, a total of 459 housing units will become available over the course of the next 12 months with 83%, or 383 units, being filled through CES.

While the addition of these resources is eagerly anticipated, partners are exploring all housing options for persons experiencing homelessness and have, despite limited housing inventory, continued to place persons in other units. The United Way of Ventura County's Landlord Engagement Program and Turning Point Foundation have been supporting housing location and navigation efforts by securing rental units when available through bonus funding provided as incentives to landlords and property managers.

The timely availability of units depends on several factors, including the funding awards, weather delays and construction timelines. In addition to units to be filled through CES and coming online in the coming 12-months, the attached spreadsheet includes other projects anticipated in the future, and identifies additional affordable units not specifically targeted to persons experiencing homelessness.

#	Developer	Housing Type	Location/Jurisdiction	Project Name	Partner Agency	Total # of Units	CoC/CES Units	Units Destined for	Referral date to begin	Opening Date	Notes
1	Many Mansions	Permanent Supportive Housing	Unincorporated County - Lewis Road	Rancho Sierra-VCBH NPLH	Many Mansions/VCBH	24	24	Seniors 62+ and up with a mental disability and who are: "At-Risk," "Chronically Homeless," or "Homeless-Supportive services agreement for non-vcbh connection.	TBD	Tentative 9/1/2024	Construction completion date pending
2	Many Mansions	Other Permanent Housing	Unincorporated County - Lewis Road	Rancho Sierra	Many Mansions	25	0	Seniors 62+, households for 25 one-bedroom	TBD	Tentative 9/1/2024	Construction completion date pending
3	Many Mansions	Other Permanent Housing	Oxnard	Central Terrace	Many Mansions	51	0	low income	2/12/2024	5/1/2024	Construction completion tentatively set for late April 2024
		Permanent Supportive Housing	Oxnard			35	35	Chronic homelessness, city of oxnard. Singles, couples (2 +1 HH Size) ERF??	2/20/2024	5/1/2024	
4	Community Development Partners	Permanent Supportive Housing	Oxnard	Casa Aliento VCBH NPLH	Mercy House/ Ventura County Behavioral Health	29	29	Serious mental illness, engaged in VCBH treatment, homeless, at risk, CH, or Homeless-Supportive services agreement for non-vcbh connection.	4/15/2024	Early 2025	
5	Community Development Partners	Permanent Supportive Housing	Oxnard	Casa Aliento OXHA Non-Mainstream Vouchers	Mercy House	21	21	Chronic homeless	4/15/2024	Early 2025	
6	Community Development Partners	Other Permanent Housing	Oxnard	Casa Aliento-Casa Aliento Mainstream Vouchers	Mercy House/City of Oxnard	19	19	18-61, literally homeless	4/15/2024	Early 2025	
7	Community Development Partners	Permanent Supportive Housing	Oxnard	Casa de Carmen	Many Mansions/VCBH	55	55	ERF oxnard	TBD	Early 2025	
8	Ventura HA	Permanent Supportive Housing	Ventura	Valentine Rd	Ventura HA/VCBH	134	34	Chronic Homeless & Ventura Residency	5/24/24 initial lease up	Full Occupancy anticipated by 12/24/2024	
9	Ventura HA	Permanent Supportive Housing	Ventura	Valentine Rd	Ventura HA		37	Literally Homeless & VCBH/Ventura Residency			
10	Ventura HA	Other Permanent Housing	Ventura	Valentine Rd	Ventura HA		63	Literal homeless, At risk/Ventura Residency			

#	Developer	Housing Type	Location/Jurisdiction	Project Name	Partner Agency	Total # of Units	CoC/CES Units	Units Destined for	Referral date to begin	Opening Date	Notes
11	A Community of Friends	Permanent Supportive Housing	Ventura	Ventura Springs	US Vets	35	35	Literally homeless veterans and chronic homeless (30 VASH Vouchers, 35 HA Vouchers)	Tentative July 2024	10/1/2024	Veterans Committee coordination
12	A Community of Friends	Permanent Supportive Housing	Ventura	Ventura Springs	US Vets	19	19	Chronic Homeless (VASH eligible)	Tentative July 2025	10/2/2024	Veterans Committee coordination
13	MESA	Transitional Housing	Ojai Valley	MESA	n/a	12	12	18-24 at risk or literal	1/1/2024	6/1/2024	Ribbon cutting/Dedication set for 6/7/24

TOTAL UNITS IN COMING 12-MONTHS

459 **383**

Percentage of CoC/CES units **83%**

14	Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families	Transitional Housing	Camarillo	Casa Pacifica - Stepping Stones Youth TH	Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families	18	10	Transitional Age Youth-literally homeless	TBD	TBD	Occupancy beginning in June 2024
15	CEDC	Permanent Supportive Housing	Oxnard	Vanguard	NHF/HCA	0	0	Chronic Homeless	TBD	TBD	
16	City of Oxnard	Other Permanent Housing	Oxnard	Dolores Huerta	Oxnard HA	58	0	58 veterans/ farmworkers	TBD	TBD	

ADDITIONAL UNITS IN THE FUTURE

76 **10**

Percentage of CoC/CES units **13%**

Project Currently on Hold

	Shangri-La	Permanent Housing	Thousand Oaks	Step Up	Step Up	57	77	Chronic Homeless & literal homeless	TBD	TBD	Project currently on hold
			Thousand Oaks		VCBH	20		VCBH chronic/literal			