



**Meeting Agenda
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, June 12, 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 May 8, 2024.
6. Approve the Priority Encampment Locations and Authorize Letters of Support to the Cities for the State's Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Program Applications. *(Presenter: Jennifer Harkey)*
7. Approval of State Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Round 4 recommendation for Funding Reallocation. *(Presenter: Jennifer Harkey)*
8. Approval of the Funding Recommendations for State of California Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Interest *(Presenter: Jennifer Harkey)*
9. Receive and file VC CoC Committee, Workgroups and Staff updates *(Presenter: Felipe Flores)*



**Meeting Minutes
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, May 8, 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: Kevin Clerici, Michael Nigh, Dawn Dyer, Mara Malch, Paul Drevenstedt, Pauline Preciado, Dr. Sevet Johnson, Manuel Minjares, Juliana Gallardo
Absent: Jack Edelstein, Ingrid Hardy, Stefany Gonzalez, Emilio Ramirez
Staff: Jennifer Harkey, Christy Madden, Felipe Flores, Alicia Morales-McKinney, Morgan Saveliff
- 2. Board Comments:** Michael Nigh requested for future agendas to list the presenters of each item so that questions can be directed to the appropriate person if necessary. Dawn reminded the Board that the Housing Trust Fund is hosting their annual Compassion Campaign Event on Thursday, May 9th at the Walnut Grove at Tierra Rejada Farms in Moorpark and tickets can be purchased online.
- 3. CoC Staff Comments:** None.
- 4. Public Comments:** Elizabeth R. Stone encouraged Board members to read the letter attached to the minutes for the Making Space Project and shared that the project is currently hiring a peer advocate for East County. Elizabeth also mentioned outcome reporting and encouraged the Board and public to consider the impact on people's lives and not solely actions taken by service providers when thinking of service outcomes.

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

- 5. Approval of Board Minutes from March 13, 2024.**
Michael Nigh moved for approval; Pauline was second; Dr. Sevet Johnson and Paul Drevenstedt abstained; the balance of the Board was in favor.
- 6. Approval of Board Minutes from April 10, 2024.**
Dawn Dyer requested that the minutes be amended on item 7 to correct a spelling error from "feeling" to "fleeing" and to include her comment as noted: "Public attendees shared their experiences with homelessness and the difficulties of counting everyone actively experiencing homelessness in the County. Dawn Dyer encouraged the public to inform those they know that are experiencing homelessness about the importance of the Count and to encourage them to participate." Mara Malch also suggested the date for the next meeting be corrected from June 12th to May 8th.

Mara Malch moved for approval with the suggested amendments to the minutes; Paul Drevenstedt was second; Dr. Sevet Johnson abstained; the balance of the Board was in favor.
- 7. Receive and file a report on the Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus (ESG-CV) Program**
Felipe Flores shared an infographic with the Board on ESG-CV program overview and outcomes. The infographic has been posted on the CoC website.

8. Receive a presentation on the 2024 State of Homelessness

Jenn Harkey presented the 2024 State of Homelessness to the Board. The full presentation can be found on the CoC website. Jenn explained that the presentation comes to the CoC Board first and is then presented to the County Board of Supervisors. Jenn requested feedback from the Board on suggested improvements or additional data they would like included.

Board members commended Jenn on the presentation, noted that the data is displayed clearly and effectively, and made a few style recommendations. Board members further suggested adding data on several topics including: specifics on housing status for the children experiencing homelessness reported by the Ventura County Office of Education, increase in utility expenses and number of people seeking financial assistance for utilities, number of deaths amongst those experiencing homelessness, and migration patterns within the County. Jenn explained that we have self-reported data on residency and length of time in the community but not necessarily on migration patterns or where people lived previously. Pauline suggested including a summary of data at the end of the presentation and efforts, strategies, and recommendations that are being made to prevent and end homelessness in the County. Dawn also suggested to emphasize the need for more housing units in order to successfully transition people from homelessness to housing. Dr. Johnson inquired if other jurisdictions are meeting the HUD target of exiting 85% of program participants to housing. Jenn explained that the target is high and other jurisdictions are also struggling to meet the goal. Alicia further explained that this target encompasses the entire system and several different project types. The percentage of successful housing placements shifts when you look at project type individually such as street outreach, emergency shelter, prevention, etc. Michael Nigh suggested including data on the previous year's system performance to show the progress to this year. Chris Russel (attendee) suggested emphasizing that the school district and Health Care for the Homeless data are unduplicated numbers and reflect unique individuals seeking assistance to highlight the volume of need. Elizabeth Stone (attendee) suggested having a glossary of terms used throughout the presentation to help with public comprehension of the data. Elizabeth also raised awareness regarding deaths by suicide amongst those experiencing homelessness and highlighted the need and complexities of capturing data on non-school aged children experiencing homelessness.

9. Receive an Update on the VC/CoC Upcoming Housing List

Felipe Flores shared with the Board a list of upcoming permanent supportive housing units that will be filled through the Coordinated Entry System (CES). The full list can be found in the May 2024 Board packet. Jenn Harkey added that clients will be prioritized for CoC units through CES and clarified that many projects have different eligibility. Some units prioritize transitions from Project Room Key to Home Key, and some require behavioral health enrollment or chronic homelessness.

Juliana Gallardo mentioned that People's Self Help also has three projects in development in Fillmore, Ventura, and Oxnard that will have homeless set aside units. Michael Nigh inquired how it was decided which units to include on this list. Jenn explained that this list includes projects that have approached the CoC to use CES for matching clients to PSH units. Michael Nigh explained that the first two developments on the list are in collaboration with both Many Mansions and Area Housing Authority. CoC staff agreed to correct the list to include Area Housing Authority for the Rancho Sierra and Rancho Sierra VCBH NPLH units. Michael Nigh also inquired why the Vanguard project in the "additional units in the future" section of the list has zero CoC units listed. CoC staff explained that the number of units is not yet determined.

Additional items not on the agenda: none

Next meeting set for June 12th, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm

June 12, 2024

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Approve the Priority Encampment Locations and Authorize Letters of Support to the Cities for the State’s Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Program Applications.

DISCUSSION: The State of California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) (https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/documents/erf_3r_nofa.pdf) for the third and final round of Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) to solicit proposals that resolve unsheltered homelessness for people residing in encampments. The ERF Program was originally authorized in 2021 through Assembly Bill 140 with an allocation of \$50 million. Assembly Bill 178 allocated an additional \$300 million for round 2 and then Assembly Bill 197 allocated an additional \$400 million for round 3. The goal of this funding is to transition individuals from prioritized encampments into permanent housing. Applications will be received by the State on a rolling basis through 6/30/2024. Based on prior awards, there is a balance of approximately \$106 million for the last two windows of Round 3 ERF applications.

The VC CoC Chair and staff sent a letter to local jurisdictions in December 2022 to solicit input on encampments to be prioritized and locations for relocation. The cities of Oxnard, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks, Ventura and Ojai have all applied for the ERF grant. The cities of Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, and Ojai have been awarded in prior rounds, based on their high scoring proposals with pathways to permanent housing. The following cities are planning to submit ERF proposals in this third and final round:

- 1) City of Camarillo – approximately 35 individuals in 3 area encampments;
- 2) City of Fillmore – approximately 20 individuals in 2 area encampments with Caltrans support;
- 3) City of Ventura – approximately 50 individuals in 4 area encampments with Caltrans support.

Each jurisdiction has the full support of local law enforcement. The city of Camarillo plans to offer relocation to non-congregate shelter through motel vouchers and prioritize chronically homeless individuals to a new Permanent Supportive Housing development when completed. The city of Fillmore plans to utilize existing emergency shelter beds and dedicate new supportive housing units in partnership with People’s Self Help Housing. The city of Ventura plans to offer relocation through non-congregate sheltering and prioritize supportive housing units through a new development with the Housing Authority of San Buenaventura.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the prioritized encampment locations and authorize staff to issue letters of support to the cities for the State’s Encampment Resolution Funding Program applications to be submitted by June 30, 2023.

June 12, 2024

California Interagency Council on Homelessness
500 Capital Mall, Suite 1850
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: State Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Letter of Support

The Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC) would like to offer this letter of support for the City's Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) grant application. The proposed project will provide a pathway to permanent housing for those living in the targeted encampments. The City has been working in collaboration with our VC CoC, street outreach staff, backpack medicine team, nonprofit organizations and County agencies to provide ongoing support to those living unsheltered in their jurisdiction.

This ERF project will provide interim shelter with case management and prioritize ERF clients for permanent supportive housing units. This project will further the efforts of the VC CoC to reduce unsheltered homelessness and provide housing to this vulnerable population. The VC CoC fully supports the City's request and respectfully asks that you consider funding this critical project.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Harkey

Jennifer Harkey
VC CoC Program Director
805-658-4342
Jennifer.Harkey@ventura.org

Dawn Dyer
Dyer Sheehan Group
Chair of the Board

Manuel Minjares
County of Ventura District 3
Vice Chair of the Board

Kevin Clerici
Downtown Ventura Partners

Paul Drevenstedt
Ventura County Public
Defender's Office

Jack Edelstein
Community Advocate

Juliana Gallardo
People's Self-Help Housing

Stefany Gonzalez
United Way of Ventura County
Lived Expertise

Ingrid Hardy
City of Thousand Oaks

Dr. Sevet Johnson
County of Ventura

Mara Malch
City of Simi Valley

Michael Nigh
Area Housing Authority of
Ventura County

Pauline Preciado
Gold Coast Health Plan

Emilio Ramirez
Oxnard Housing Department

June 12, 2024

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Approval of State Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Round 4 Funding Reallocation.

BACKGROUND: On March 8, 2023, the VC CoC Board approved National Health Foundation to receive \$1,075,284 in funding to continue operations for the Recuperative Care program. Funding is intended to support ongoing operations such as rent, food, facilities and security. VC CoC staff, in coordination with National Health Foundation and the County Health Care Agency (HCA), are requesting the redirection of funds from National Health Foundation to the County HCA to maintain a critical lease agreement to continue operating recuperative care at the Motel 6 in Ventura. This strategic reallocation is necessary to ensure the continued provision of essential services to our unhoused population, particularly during this transitional period. The lease agreement has been instrumental in providing safe, interim shelter for individuals needing respite care after exiting from a hospital stay, as well as those living unsheltered with chronic health conditions. The County HCA currently holds the motel lease agreement which is expected to expire on March 30, 2025. HCA will be expending all prior HHAP-3 funds by the end of June 2024 and this reallocation will fill the gap through December 2024.

Grant Activity Type	Total Budget	Remaining Balance as of 6/1/2024:	Amended Budget for National Health Foundation	VC CoC Re-allocation Recommendation to Healthcare Agency
Interim Sheltering	\$1,075,284	\$1,075,284	\$579,439	\$495,845

After conducting a staff review of the HHAP 4 grant agreement, and in consultation with National Health Foundation (NHF) and the County HCA, the decision is mutually agreed upon and aligns with our commitment to providing holistic, person-centered care for vulnerable individuals seeking respite care while not disrupting current operations. To address the impending funding shortfall, HCA and NHF will pursue additional funding through Gold Coast Healthcare Plan and potentially other funding sources. The permanent location for recuperative care beds at 2323 Knoll Drive in Ventura is projected to open no earlier than June 2025. Meanwhile, ongoing discussions with all involved entities will focus on sustainability to ensure the continuation of essential services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Authorize staff to reallocate \$495,845 for interim sheltering funding to County HealthCare Agency;
- 2) Approval of staff to amend National Health Foundations HHAP 4 contract for the amount of \$579,439.

June 12, 2024

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Approval of the Funding Recommendations for State of California Homeless Housing & Assistance Prevention (HHAP) Program Interest

BACKGROUND: At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020), the County of Ventura was able to lease full motel facilities for the purposes of providing non-congregate shelter for the high-risk homeless population, including persons who were 65 years or older and/or had serious health conditions that put them at high-risk for complications if infected.

Motel vouchers were issued for eligible participants with monthly extensions granted based on need and ongoing eligibility. The motel voucher authorized the participant to remain safely sheltered in the motel with the agreement that the County would pay for their stay in the motel. Monthly motel invoices have been paid by the County of Ventura to motels for all eligible PRK participants. In addition, the Area Agency on Aging delivered meals and food boxes to all PRK participants.

DISCUSSION: With extensive funding support provided through FEMA and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) over the years, funds for motel vouchers, meals and food boxes have now expired and there is an urgent need to address the shortfall in the PRK program to bridge the remaining 107 program participants to permanent housing placements. PRK has provided temporary shelter and meals to highly vulnerable unhoused people in our community and has been a critical component of our efforts to ensure those experiencing homelessness have access to safe and secure accommodations, while waiting for the various Homekey projects to open and accept referrals.

Over the last year, VC CoC staff have worked in collaboration with several homeless service providers to find permanent housing for PRK participants through various other sources; however, economic challenges, rising construction costs and ongoing impacts of development have delayed various Homekey projects which has inadvertently impacted PRK participant transition plans. As a result, there is a shortfall, that if unaddressed, will leave many of these vulnerable individuals without shelter or permanent housing. Staff managing the PRK program continue to explore cost-cutting measures, other funding sources and alternate placements for program participants. While HHAP interest must be monitored and reported to the State by round, VC CoC Staff is requesting authorization to allocate up to \$150,000 from whichever HHAP round(s) has sufficient funds, and for which interim sheltering is an eligible activity.

HHAP Program Interest Funding Recommendations

Project	Activity Type	Recommendation
Project Roomkey	Emergency Shelter	Up to \$150,000

RECOMMENDATIONS: Approve the funding recommendations for California Homeless Housing Assistance & Prevention (HHAP) Program Interest to fund interim sheltering for Project Roomkey.

June 12, 2024

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive and file VC CoC Committee, Workgroups and Staff updates

Housing & Services Committee: This committee continues to meet quarterly and reconvened on April 17, 2024, with a diverse membership of healthcare providers, shelter providers, transitional housing providers, supportive services providers, outreach providers, persons with lived expertise, behavioral health, and city partners. The committee is finalizing a Supportive Services Plan to standardize quality care, guidance for housing navigation and retention, and coordinate the appropriate caseload ratios for different subpopulations across all homeless services programs. The draft Supportive Services Plan will be presented to the VC CoC Board for review and approval in July. The next H&S Committee meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2024, at 9:30am.

HMIS Steering Committee: VC CoC staff continue to review the onboarding requests to ensure priority is given to the appropriate programs. HMIS staff is continuing to develop new online training modules to allow newly licensed users the ability to complete training remotely. The Supportive Services Agreement form has been updated to reflect the preferences for Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF), Project Roomkey (PRK), and Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) clients. The next HMIS Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2024, at 9:30am.

Data, Performance & Evaluation Committee: The Data Committee reviewed and analyzed the latest quarterly System Performance Measures Report from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to determine areas for improvement. There continues to be concerns with returns to homelessness which emphasizes the need for additional supportive services for housing retention. The length of stay in emergency shelter programs is longer than the prior year, as the need for more permanent supportive housing units is significant. The committee agrees with the need to prioritize the next round of HHAP funds to bridge gaps in permanent supportive housing projects, expand rapid rehousing, and increase homelessness prevention services. The next Data Committee meeting is scheduled on August 7, 2024, at 10am.

Public Information and Outreach (PIO) Committee: The committee continues to expand outreach through VC CoC social media to educate the public and raise awareness on homelessness issues. Currently, staff is incorporating stories of people with lived experience through the preparation of short, testimonial videos of housed Project RoomKey clients. Media sharing will take place through various platforms. New infographics are being developed to share progress, successes and outcomes from various grants and programs. A new quarterly PIO newsletter highlighting community partners, their work and special initiatives being worked on by staff, among other topics, is under development. The next PIO meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2024, at 1:30pm.

Veterans Case Conference Workgroup: This workgroup continues to review the Homeless Veterans By Name List (BNL) with representation from Veteran Affairs (VA) and local Veteran service providers to coordinate connections to housing and services. Referrals to the VASH program are now being prioritized through this workgroup to ensure the most vulnerable homeless Veterans are connected to housing resources. The Veterans committee continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis utilizing a One Team approach and schedules in person meetings as needed to ensure continuity of care and coordination. The next in person meeting is scheduled on June 17, 2024.

Youth Collaborative Workgroup: Over 20 youth providers participate in this workgroup. Mesa in Ojai provided an update during the meeting on April 22, 2024, on the Transitional Housing Homekey project that will provide 12 units for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) this Summer 2024. Mesa has been recruiting to hire a full-time case manager for this new program. Referrals will be prioritized through the Coordination Entry System (CES), Pathways to Home. Homeless youth service providers who participate in HMIS CES include Cal State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) Basic Needs Program, Casa Pacifica, County Human Services Agency, Interface Children & Family Services, Oxnard College, and TAY Tunnel.

Staff: VC CoC staff have expanded participation in the VC CoC committees, as well as added a diverse group of participants for the Shared Housing Workgroup. Training has been provided over the past two months to Ventura County Probation Officers to ensure unhoused clients with criminal justice involvement are connected to services. A new Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released, as previously approved by the VC CoC Board, to help us partner with people with lived experience countywide in FY24-25. Staff will be bringing items to the CoC committees to discuss the best practices and provide recommendations to the VC CoC Board at a later date.