HUD CoC Committee
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 4, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Meetings are public. Homeless and formerly homeless Alameda County residents are encouraged to attend. Public Comment will be taken at the beginning of each meeting and is limited to 2 minutes per person. Click here to learn more about the public participation policy.

Attendance:

HUD CoC Members Present: C'Mone Falls (City of Oakland), Riley Wilkerson (AC HCD), Marnelle Timson (Consumer), Lara Tannenbaum (City of Oakland), Paulette Franklin (AC BHCS), Tunisia Owens (FVLC)

EveryOne Home Staff Present: Chelsea Andrews, Ja’Nai Aubry, Courtney Welch, Jessie Shimmin

Members of the Public: Naomi Schiff (Shelter Oak), Talya Husbands–Hankin (Love and Justice in the Streets), Marisa Kendall (Mercury News), Natalie Orenstein (The Oaklandside)

Absent: Wendy Jackson (EOCP)

1. Public Comment (Ja’Nai) 10:00 – 10:05 am
   a. Naomi Schiff from Shelter Oak expressed concern that there were not enough individuals from the homelessness advocacy groups present to contribute to the discussion.

2. Action Items for Vote 10:05 – 11:00 am
   a. Waiver for unsheltered PIT (Point-in-Time) Count requirements
      i. Presentation of Recommendation
         a. Jessie Shimmin gave an overview of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) unsheltered PIT Count guidance and the PIT Count Advisory Committee’s recommendation.
         i. Standard PIT Count process: Takes place in odd numbered years, during the last 10 days in January. There are two parts to the count: a sheltered count that is performed through administrative sources (HMIS and similar databases) and an unsheltered count that is performed by volunteers going out to physically count individuals experiencing homelessness.
ii. The PIT count is crucial to measuring the size of unsheltered homelessness and it informs many types of decision making: policy, system planning, funding allocation, etc.

iii. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD issued the following guidance to Continua of Care about conducting the 2021 Point-in-Time Count.
   1. Prioritize the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness.
      a. They are more likely to be in poor health and at higher risk of medical complications due to COVID-19.
   2. Recognize that homeless service providers and other frontline workers are maximized providing essential services and may not have capacity to support a count.
   3. Minimize reliance on volunteers.
   4. Minimize face-to-face interactions.
   5. Consider using a sampling methodology.

iv. All PIT count data must be prepared and submitted to HUD on or before April 30th, 2021.

v. At the September, 2020 CoC Committee meeting the Committee approved the seating structure of the PIT Count Advisory Committee.

vi. At the November 17, 2020 meeting, the Continuum of Care committee approved requesting a waiver from HUD of the requirement for a survey to gather unsheltered demographic and subpopulation data.

vii. Due to the recent surge in COVID-19, the PIT Count project management team and PIT count advisory committee recommend that the CoC request a full waiver of the 2021 unsheltered point in time count requirements.
   1. The rationale for the recommendation includes insufficient people power, unreliable data, non-essential COVID risks, amplified racial inequities, and public health orders.

ii. Amendments
   a. The HUD CoC Chair, C’Mone Falls, suggested an amendment to the recommendation stating that the HUD CoC should revisit the decision in March 2021 to determine if any portion of the unsheltered PIT Count can and should be performed at a later date.
      i. Note: One of the considerations for doing a survey in either spring or summer of 2021 is the availability of resources. The limited funds originally allocated for this year’s count would be carried over for the 2022 count. If a survey was to be performed, additional resources would need to be secured.

iii. Call to Vote
   a. C’Mone Falls moved for the HUD CoC Committee to approve the PIT count advisory committee’s recommendation to request a waiver from
HUD for the unsheltered PIT count and survey. HUD CoC will revisit the conversation in March 2021. Lara Tannenbaum seconded the motion.

b. Vote
   a. C’Mone Falls=Yes
   b. Riley Wilkerson=Yes
   c. Lara Tannenbaum=Yes
   d. Paulette Franklin=Yes
   e. Marnelle Timson=Yes
   f. Tunisia Owens=Yes
      i. Motion Passes.

3. Meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.

Notes submitted by: Courtney Welch
Notes approved by: Ja’Nai Aubry