

SYSTEM COORDINATION COMMITTEE NOTES

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

System Coordination Committee: Allison DeJung (211/ Eden I&R), C'Mone Falls (City of Oakland), Calleene Egan (Berkeley Food and Housing Project), Daniel Cooperman (Alameda County Housing and Community Development), Gloria Divine (Consumer), Fina Perez (Alameda County Probation Department), Jessica Lobedan (City of Hayward), Kate Hart (Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments), Kerry Abbott (Alameda County Health Care Services Agency), Vivian Wan (Abode Services)

EveryOne Home Staff: Chelsea Andrews, Ja'Nai Aubry, Alexis Lozano, Jessica Shimmin, Courtney Welch

Members of the Public: Anna Fellers (HCSA), Caitlin Chan, Christine Ma (UCSF Benioff), Jessica Blakemore (All In), Marta Lutsky (HCSA), Nashi Gunasekara (Family Violence Law Center), Nic Ming (City of Oakland), Rachel Metz (Consultant), Suzanne Warner (HCSA), Lucy Kasdin (HCSA)

Absent System Coordination Committee: Lara Tannenbaum (City of Oakland), Jamie Almanza (Bay Area Community Services)

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.](#)

1. Welcome/ Introductions

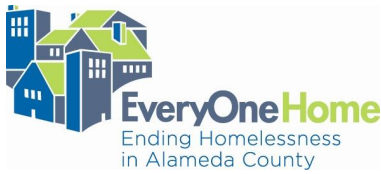
2:00 - 2:15pm

- a. Community Agreements
 - i. Step Up/ Step Back
 1. Kate Hart (SAVE) explained the process of Stepping Up/Stepping Back to give people who may not be able to speak as often the opportunity to participate in meeting discussions.
 - ii. Acronyms
 1. Clarify acronyms when discussing items. All committee members and attendees may not be familiar with the organization/program acronym being used.
 - iii. Racial Equity
 1. Ja'Nai Aubry (EOH) reaffirmed the committee's dedication to centering racial equity in discussions, especially within ongoing discussion around vaccine roll out.
- b. Check-in
 - i. The committee went into breakout rooms for a brief introduction session.

2. Public Comment

2:15 - 2:25pm

- a. Public comment
 - i. No public comment.



3. Staff Report

2:25 - 2:35pm

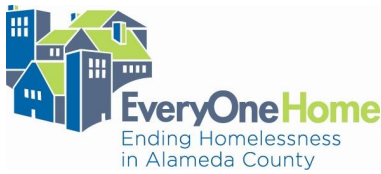
- a. Strategic Planning / Governance Updates
 - i. Ja’Nai Aubry (EOH) reviewed the governance strategic planning process and timeline.
 - 1. Staff and relevant stakeholders engaged in four strategic sessions from December 2020 - January 2021.
 - 2. Ja’Nai Aubry (EOH) introduced the next steps for the strategic planning process for the next 4 months.
 - 3. Ja’Nai Aubry (EOH) and Chelsea Andrews (EOH) encouraged feedback from all stakeholders. The goal is to hear as many points of view as possible.
 - 4. A Listening Session and Zoom drop-in meeting will be scheduled for stakeholders to give their input.
 - b. Committee Survey
 - i. A committee engagement survey will be sent out after the meeting to members to give them an opportunity to provide feedback on the committee’s structure and engagement.
 - ii. A Google email group has been created for System Coordination Committee (SCC) members and the Continuum of Care (CoC) staff (Ja’Nai Aubry, Courtney Welch) for ongoing communication.

4. Urgent Items

2:35 - 2:50pm

- a. Safer Ground Backfill - Suzann Warner (HCSA) & Rachel Metz (Consultant)
 - i. President Biden ordered Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse 100% of eligible costs for the COVID hotels (Project Roomkey).
 - 1. Communities must pay the funds up front.
 - 2. FEMA order expires in September 2021.
 - ii. Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) will be submitting a proposal to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to pause any ramp down plans for Project Roomkey hotels.
 - 1. If the proposal is approved, providers would be able to take referrals to fill current empty rooms in the hotels.
 - 2. HCSA is seeking input on the referral process for the pending proposal from the SCC.
 - iii. Referral Recommendation Changes Within Proposal
 - 1. Update to Clinical Eligibility
 - a. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has changed guidance as they have learned more about COVID. Providers would be prioritizing referrals for those with highest risk of contraction and mortality.
 - 2. Streamlined Packet Process
 - a. A uniformed referral packet will be used to minimize duplication.
 - iv. Limited Number of Rooms
 - 1. Phase 1 will include referrals from the existing waitlist.
 - 2. Phase 2 will be new referrals—TBD if it will be time limited.
 - v. County sites will continue to be Safer Ground shelter sites until guests transition to permanent housing.

1. Site operators will be given clear guidance on closure dates, which will be staggered.
 2. Guests will be informed about the intake model.
 - a. Guests will be informed the Project Roomkey hotel sites operate similarly to navigation centers. There will be clear expectations about stay duration and participation in housing planning activities.
 - b. Guests will be provided with an agreement listing this information.
- vi. Questions
1. Calleene Egan (BFHP) inquired about the timeline for the ramp down plan.
 - a. Kerry Abbott (HCSA) answered that the ramp down is currently paused, and hotels won't be closing at the end of February as originally planned. Once the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approves the proposal there are specific ramp down dates that have been proposed for each hotel site.
 2. Fina Perez (Probation Department) asked how many people are currently on the waitlist and when does HCSA plan on presenting to the BOS.
 - a. There are currently 100 people on the waitlist and HCSA is still negotiating with the County Administrator on when they will be meeting with the BOS.
 - i. Vivian Wan (Abode Services) asks if the 100 people currently on the waitlist fall under the "highest need" category.
 1. Kerry Abbott (HCSA) says they are unsure under which category the current waitlisted guests fall. There are ongoing conversations taking place with the county medical directors on what qualifies as "highest need".
 3. Calleene Egan (BFHP) asked for clarification on if any of the hotels had closed prior to the President's announcement and ramp down pausing.
 - a. The Quality Inn in Berkeley closed in December, and The Marina Village Inn closed at the end of January. The guests were relocated either to another non-congregate shelter location or permanent housing. The ramp down timeline will be changed from sites closing at the end of February to gradually leading into summer to the early fall (late September 2021).
 4. Nashi Gunasekara (FVLW) asked what is considered the definition of the "highest risk."
 - a. Lucy Kasdin (HCSA) answered that the medical directors don't have an update. They will have concrete definitions once more guidance is provided from the CDC—however generally 65 and older or at least 55 years old with a pre-existing condition that makes the individual more at risk for COVID contraction and mortality.
 5. Kate Hart (SAVE) asked if there is a report on which individuals went to what type of permanent housing.
 - a. Kerry Abbott (HCSA) answered there isn't a specific report that can be distributed easily just yet, however HCSA receives data weekly on how many people have moved to housing and what category of housing. HCSA also receives information on the racial and ethnic breakdown for



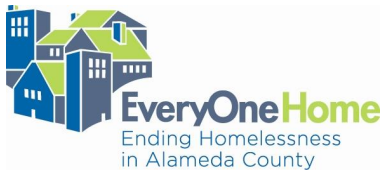
who is at the Safer Ground locations and who has been served at the locations over time.

6. Chelsea Andrews (EOH) asked how the referral list will be prioritized, and will it be based on which referrals are sent in first.
 - a. Kerry Abbott (HCSA) explains that HCSA reviewed the permanent supportive housing (PSH) target list—the top tier people on PSH list are long-term homeless and medically vulnerable or have a serious mental illness. The list was cross matched with health records from the Community Health Record (CHR) for high risk factors listed by the CDC. Individuals that matched were prioritized first.
7. Kerry Abbott (HCSA) discussed adding additional funding allocated for hotel exits.
 - a. Kerry Abbott (HCSA) asked the cities to add Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) or Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds to housing exit resource pool.
8. Jessica Lobedan (City of Hayward) asked how Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) funding has been utilized.
 - a. HHAP Round 1 Funding: Allocated for coordinating system and navigation services.
 - b. HHAP Round 2 Funding: The County’s allocation was allocated for long term subsidies, exits to permanent housing through ESG Funds, and CoC allocation is for Coordinated Entry access points and housing problem solving work.
 - c. The HHAP funds would have to be negotiated.

5. Discussion Items (Fina)

2:50 - 3:40pm

- a. Homeless System Updates (All)
 - i. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Oversight Committee had a discussion during their last meeting regarding tracking COVID Vaccinations in HMIS.
 1. Dusty Olson from Abt Associates attended the HMIS meeting to discuss options for CoCs to track vaccinations for those experiencing homelessness in HMIS.
 - a. During the meeting, Dusty explained tracking vaccinations in HMIS would not violate HIPAA and that it would be extremely beneficial for effectiveness and ensuring racial equity.
 2. The HMIS Oversight committee did not decide if HMIS tracking is something the CoC should perform versus a public health agency.
 - a. If vaccinations are tracked in HMIS, vaccination data cannot be used as an “eligibility criteria”.
 - b. Lucy Kasdin (HCSA) asked how easily can service providers access HMIS in the field and how are homeless service providers going to be a part of the vaccination roll out?
 - c. Nic Ming (City of Oakland) mentioned that focusing on equity is key and allowing non-HMIS users to access and implement the vaccination data that is collected.
- b. Coordinated Entry 2.0
 - i. Marta Lutsky (HCSA) presented a tentative timeline slated for January 2021-July 2021



1. April is the proposed month for the retirement of the old assessment and the implementation of the new crisis and housing assessments.
 2. The goal for March is to hold the new regional coordination meetings, train the Housing Resource Center staff on housing problem solving and add both assessments into HMIS.
 3. The goal for the end February is to complete the execution of the access point contracts and the implementation of learning communities' contracts by the end of the month.
 4. Marta Lutsky (HCSA) asked for feedback on crafting a grievance policy and for members to contact her with their suggestions.
- c. COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout
- i. Dr. Kathleen Clanon and Kerry Abbott will be hosting an informational webinar on March 1st.
 - ii. The County has been prioritizing vaccinating health care workers.
 - iii. Alameda County has a very high number of healthcare workers that is much higher than most of the other counties.
 - iv. The County is moving to people over 65 and other essential workers this week and next week.
 1. Over the next week people who have registered and are in an eligible population will start getting emails from the vaccine registration website.
 2. The County is encouraging people who are not in the special populations to go through their Healthcare Providers, to increase equity in vaccine distribution, by focusing on the populations who will not be able to access vaccines through their regular providers.
- d. Dedicated Affordable Housing Workgroup
- i. The first meeting is February 24th, 4- 5:30pm.
 - ii. Kerry Abbott (HCSA) stated she has spoken with Katherine Gale about helping with the structure. If anyone wants to participate but was not in the last System Coordination Committee, they should email Kerry to be added to the calendar invite.

6. Conclusion

3:40 - 3:45pm

- a. Upcoming Agenda Items
 - i. Ja'Nai Aubry (EOH) asked if the next meeting should be rescheduled due to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference on the same date as the next meeting.
 1. SCC declined to reschedule.
- b. Next meeting scheduled for March 10th, 2021 2:00-4:00pm