To: HUD CoC Committee  
From: Kathie Barkow, EveryOne Counts PIT Count Project Manager on behalf of the EveryOne Counts Planning Committee  
January 7, 2022  
Re: Rescheduling the Point In Time Sheltered and Unsheltered Count to February 24, 2022  

Recommendation: The Planning Team is unanimously recommending rescheduling EveryOne Counts to February 24, 2022 to provide some time for the surge to potentially lessen and protect the accuracy and completeness of the Count.

Summary Background
The HUD CoC Committee previously approved conducting the Point In Time Count of people experiencing homelessness on January 25, 2022. Further, the HUD CoC Committee also approved a methodology that:

- relies heavily on outreach staff, other program or jurisdictional staff very familiar with unsheltered homelessness and Guides currently or recently experiencing homelessness for the unsheltered enumeration and
- is actively organized by local City/Regional Coordinators who facilitate matching these subject matter experts to the respective census tracts that require this level of expertise for the unsheltered enumeration.

The current COVID surge is once again putting exceptional constraints on the staff of outreach programs, shelters, and jurisdictions as well as people experiencing homelessness who are all essential to both the staffing and accuracy of the unsheltered Point In Time Count. The surge is causing many of these staff to be out of office because of COVID infection or quarantining due to exposure while many others are being redeployed to help cover other essential services within their organization that are strained due to the surge. The County’s quantity of Isolation and Quarantine units for people experiencing homelessness is currently insufficient compared to the need for these units. Conducting an unsheltered enumeration without this array of subject matter experts who are essential to staffing the Count jeopardizes the accuracy and reliability of the Count data.

Other communities across California and in the Bay Area, also concerned about the impact of the surge on their planned staffing for the Count, began clarifying with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that an exception to the requirement for conducting the Count in January could be granted based on criteria acceptable to HUD which includes “Other reasons HUD deems would have a negative impact on the accuracy and completeness of a CoC’s count.”¹ HUD provided additional clarification that it is encouraging CoCs to consider whether counting in February is feasible and that COVID implications are grounds for the “good cause” cited in its regulations. As of today, Marin and Santa Clara County have rescheduled their Counts to February; other Bay Area Counties (including San Francisco) are considering rescheduling.

Finally, partial data collected from 6 of our 8 lead City/Regional Coordinators is provided in the following pages and validates that COVID is indeed impacting both their current planning and anticipated staffing, with all 6 Coordinators in support of rescheduling the Count. Below is the partial data, though I hope to have data from all 8 Coordinators at the time of the HUD CoC Committee. I look forward to answering your questions at the meeting.

**Survey Data from the City/Regional Coordinators**

1. Planning tract coverage: Are you currently experiencing or do you anticipate experiencing challenges or delays in planning tract coverage, particularly due to ramifications of the Omicron COVID surge such as outreach/program/jurisdictional staff needing to reschedule conversations with you, delays getting information you need from outreach/providers/jurisdictional staff, or your time being redirected to other surge related activities?

   6 responses

   ![Survey Data Chart 1](chart1.png)

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2. Staffing pre-assigned tracts: Are you experiencing or do you anticipate staffing constraints by the outreach, program and/or jurisdictional staff pre-assigned to your high density/special outreach tracts?

   6 responses

   ![Survey Data Chart 2](chart2.png)

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</table>
3. Of the organizations you are relying on for staffing the Count, what proportion of the organizations would you estimate are expressing concerns or currently have staffing shortages due to the Omicron COVID surge, infection, or quarantining from exposure?

6 responses

4. From my vantage point, rescheduling the Point In Time Count from 1/25 to late February might be helpful to the staffing, accuracy, and completeness of the Count in my city/region.

6 responses

Planning Team
The EveryOne Counts Point In Time Count is an enumeration and survey of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January and is a collaborative effort between EveryOne Home, Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department, Aspire Consulting LLC, Applied Survey Research and Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Office of Homeless Care and Coordination with significant community support.