

## Outreach Access and Coordination Committee

### Minutes January 10, 2024

#### Agenda

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>1) Welcome / Introductions</b> (Kate Hart)   | 2:00pm – 2:05pm |
| <b>2) Approval of minutes, December 13th, 2023</b> (Kate Hart)<br><i>No roll call vote is needed, corrections not already received by Homebase will be noted and minutes changed accordingly.</i> | 2:05pm – 2:10pm |
| <b>3) Public Comment</b> (Kate Hart)  | 2:10pm – 2:15pm |
| <b>4) Urgent Items</b> (Kim Natarajan)  | 2:15pm – 2:20pm |
| <b>5) Homeless System Updates</b> (All)   | 2:20pm – 2:25pm |
| <b>6) Understanding HHAP-5 and CoC Encampment Policy</b> (Kim Natarajan)  | 2:25pm - 2:35pm |
| <b>7) Oakland Cabins Project</b> (Nic Ming)   | 2:35pm – 3:05pm |
| <b>8) 2024 Workplan Review</b> (Amy Cole-Bloom)   | 3:05pm – 3:30pm |
| <b>9) Unsheltered Conversation and Next Steps</b> (Kate Hart)   | 3:30pm – 3:55pm |
| <b>10) Closing</b><br>a) Upcoming Agenda Items<br>i) Vote on CoC encampment policy  | 3:55pm – 4:00pm |
| Next meeting: <b>February 14th, 2023</b>  |                 |

Notes from 1/10/2024 meeting

**Minutes Approval**

- Alison DeJung requested that minutes and other meeting materials be circulated via email in advance of meetings. It was noted that minutes posted to the EveryOne Home website can be difficult to locate. Kim Natarajan stated that the Homebase team will endeavor to share meeting materials including minutes for approval are shared at least a week in advance of upcoming meetings.

**Public Comment**

- Brigitte Cook
  - Requested a moment of silence to honor the second unsheltered murder victim this year, Larissa Oliver.
- No written public comments submitted.

**Urgent Items**

- None

**System Updates**

- Please sign up for PIT Count to be held January 25, 2024. Volunteer Registration Link: <https://alameda24.pointintime.info/>

**Understanding HHAP-5 and CoC Encampment Policy**

- An overview of the HHAP-5 Application process status, and how CoC encampment policy may be considered in the application materials was given.
  - The application is due March 27<sup>th</sup> 2024, to be submitted jointly by Alameda County OHCC and the City of Oakland.
  - HHAP dollars go to support many projects tied to the local strategic plan goals, mainly from Home Together Plan 2026.
  - 3 public meetings will be held to gather feedback on the HHAP-5 application draft before submission, one of which may be the CoC spring general body meeting.
- The relevant statute AB-1285 was shared, and may be viewed at this link: <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1285/id/2845247>
- It was noted that no change to current policy is required to meet the minimum statement needed to submit the HHAP-5 application. However, this is also an opportunity to explore as a committee whether we are satisfied with current policy and if not, what we would like the policy to be. No changes were recommended at this time.

## OAKLAND, BERKELEY / ALAMEDA COUNTY CoC

- As it stands, the CoC policy supports no specific prioritization based on encampment residency status. Instead, the CoC policy relies on vulnerability assessments for prioritization. Recognizing that encampments are a large concern, an alternate approach is suggested: increasing the number of new funding awards that are encampment dedicated funds to directly add resources and services.

### Questions and Discussion:

- Suzanne Warner from Alameda OHCC is coordinating the HHAP-5 application process and provided helpful clarifications and context.
- Laurie Flores noted that there are monthly meetings being held between Cities and the County to discuss encampment abatement. The group is preparing a proposal of universal best practices, which they plan to share with OAC for discussion.
- Stacey Burmaster commented that it is her strong opinion that we do not prioritize resources based on encampment residency status but instead rely on vulnerability.
- Amy Cole-Bloom noted that at the December meeting the group discussion was in agreement with Stacey's opinion when the Berkeley proposal was voted down.

### **Oakland Cabins RRH Project Update**

- The Oakland Cabins Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Project request for policy changes previously shared in the December 2023 meeting materials has evolved since December. In the latest update, the Cabins project was able to find a way to move forward without any changes to existing CoC policy. Instead, they are being treated as a new dedicated funding resource with eligibility restrictions. This means the project will not need prioritization policy changes but can operate with procedural matching following existing policy. This aligns with the project design as submitted in the HUD Unsheltered Special NOFO funding which established the new project.
- Nic Ming from Social Impact Wheel gave an overview of the Oakland Cabins RRH project implementation plan for feedback.
- In short, the project design of the Oakland Cabins RRH project is to help support the movement of Oakland encampment residents into the Oakland Cabins Temporary Housing and then into a Rapid Rehousing permanent housing solution. The first group of people to be targeted for assistance are those who have moved from an encampment into the cabins and next would be those who chose not to move into cabins but remain in encampments. The project will run for 3 years as a pilot.
- Key elements highlighted during the presentation included:

- Working definition of “encampment” for this specific project:
  - Encampment: when groups of two or more people experiencing unsheltered homelessness occupy a space not meant or safe for ongoing human habitation and erect and/or use temporary and/or unstable structures for shelter such as tents and immobile vehicles.
- Project Eligibility Criteria:
  - Experienced unsheltered encampment homelessness
  - Receiving temp shelter in Oakland Cabins
  - Client interest in Rapid Rehousing resources
  - Likelihood of being able to pay rent independently after the temporary subsidy ends.
  - Priority order on the Housing Queue 60-80 (typically) after completing Housing Assessment

Questions and Discussion:

- OAC would like to hear updates on how this pilot is going
- Does it come with wrap around support? - Yes the RRH comes with case management and stabilization case management
- What is the estimated number of individuals to serve? - 20 per year estimated 50-60 over three years
- Eligibility criteria item “Likelihood of being able to pay rent independently. . .” - this language can be ambiguous, can we do a more detailed definition? How will this language be applied/interpreted? For example, one provider may require paychecks/income in place before allowing someone to enter RRH while another may be willing to help someone obtain employment while in RRH - Only one provider will be implementing this so their interpretation will be consistent. There is no requirement for paychecks in place before they receive the RRH placement, RRH support is to last up to 24 months. - Goal is to identify those who have income and/or are likely to gain income or increase income during the program enrollment period. Clients would eventually need to be able to afford the unit they are placed in without RRH rental assistance.
  - We should be clearer in the language to ensure there are not exclusionary practices that come up in implementation.
- Who will be the provider? - Abode services won the RFP for the RRH project from Oakland, they will work together with Operation Dignity who runs the temporary housing project at the Cabin sites
- Comment: To get anything done we need enough staffing to service the 20 people per year. How many people have to be served with how many resources

in order to succeed? The community cares about these encampments and politics can push one encampment over another to be served.

- Are there benchmarks for those residing the community cabins to meet in order to begin looking for permanent housing? - The provider is looking at that process. We'd like to reduce barriers as much as possible.
- Are people going straight from the cabins to subsidized market rate housing?  
Yes
- Will someone need to stay in the county for their subsidized unit? Will have an answer on that at a later date. Still working on the procedures.
- What happens if someone is unable to pay market rent at the end of 24 months? Again will bring back an answer at a later date.
- Is there a specified formula/tracking per individual, in terms of awarding a mix of benefits, a particular mix of achievements/fulfillments per person and a range of potential values/schedule? – Not exactly. CES policy, matching procedures, program written standards, and general outcomes goals can all be a reference point for these questions.

## 2024 Workplan Review

- OAC Co-Chair Amy Cole-Bloom presented the 2024 OAC Workplan as drafted by co-chairs, Homebase staff, and a working session held for OAC membership on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. The projects selected for 2024 were divided into three categories: 1) Required per the charter 2) Efforts in other committees intersecting with OAC 3) OAC Special Projects
- Given the long list of activities on the 2024 workplan, two workgroups were proposed to support the two largest themes of the year: Outreach and Unsheltered Homelessness. These two themes had strong interest in past OAC meetings, and were large enough to suggest additional meetings beyond monthly meetings would be necessary to accomplish the 2024 goals in each.

Action Item: A motion was made by Kate Hart “to establish an Outreach workgroup and an Unsheltered strategies working group.” Kate Hart was named as the OAC voting representative for both working groups. The motion was seconded by Amy Cole-Bloom. The motion passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No votes, 1 Abstain. Volunteers are requested for the workgroups, and an email with further information about scheduling workgroup kickoff meetings will be shared by Homebase.

- It was suggested that some of the workgroup meetings could be held in-person. The group had mixed opinions on this, and it was left to individual workgroups to continue the discussion and decide for themselves their preferred meeting style.

- The 2024 OAC workplan will be a working document, continuously updated throughout the year.

**Additional Discussion:**

- It was requested that we begin a shared folder for the Outreach Access and Coordination Committee, to keep track of meeting materials, agendas, minutes, and other working documents all in one place for committee members.
- The Coordinated Entry (CE) training series has been launched on the Bitfocus platform.
- A new CE workflow document is now available with updated visuals.

**Parking Lot**

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Attendance – Voting Members

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Alison DeJung (Eden INR)                            | Present   |
| Amy Cole-Bloom (City of Hayward)                    | Present   |
| Ariana Nawabi (YAB)                                 | <i>Absent</i>   |
| Catharine Casimere (Alameda County Social Services) | Present (pending Leadership Board Confirmation to be voting member) |
| Colleen Budenholzer (OHCC)                          | Present   |
| Daniel Scott (HCD)                                  | Present   |
| Jenn Oakley   | Present   |
| Kara Carnahan (Abode)                               | Present   |
| Kate Hart (Save)                                    | Present   |
| Laurie Flores (City of Fremont)                     | Present   |
| Stacey Burmaster (Insight Housing)                  | Present   |
| Stephanie Semien                                    | Present   |
| Tiara Jones (City of Oakland)                       | Present   |
| Marcela Munoz                                       | <i>Absent</i>   |
| Veronica Alder                                      | Present   |

Attendance – Public

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| Adriann Pemberton (VA)                   | Tiara Jones (City of Oakland)       |
| Andrea Zeppa (ACHCH)                     | Lynette Ward                        |
| Brigitte Cook (City of Oakland)          | Alex Baker (OHCC)                   |
| Chloe Green (consultant)                 | Christoverre Kohler                 |
| Dani Staub (Alameda Alliance for Health) | Nic Ming (Social Impact Wheel)      |
| Eleni Spiru (Swords to Ploughshares)     | Phil Clark (ACHCH)                  |
| Courtney Pal (RCD Community Development) | Dr. Kenisha Bryant (Abt Associates) |
| Hannah Toda (OHCC)                       | Peter Radu (City of Berkeley)       |
| Suzanne Warner (OHCC)                    | Tony Tovani                         |

Attendance – Staff

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| Kim Natarajan | Homebase |
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