

Memo: REC Support and Collaboration on CoC Prioritization and Unsheltered Homelessness

To: Outreach Access and Coordination Committee

Cc: Leadership Board

Emerging OAC Areas for REC Support and Collaboration

In recent months, the Outreach, Access and Coordination (OAC) Committee has been engaged in critical conversation about unsheltered homelessness with particular attention around encampment resolution and prioritization for those living in encampments.

In the January 10th OAC meeting, the committee committed to establishing two workgroups: the unsheltered workgroup and outreach workgroup with the purposes outlined below.

Proposed OAC Workgroups

Unsheltered Workgroup

- Define the CoC's role in encampment resolution and serving people living unsheltered.
- Elaborate on strategies to end unsheltered homelessness.

Outreach Workgroup

- Define current outreach strategies, capacity, and capability.
- Understand the landscape of key players, engage with those directly in the field.
- Define goals for outcomes and impacts.
- Develop strategies to enhance efforts and increase both output, outcomes, and impact.

Since the majority of people experiencing homelessness in our CoC are living unsheltered and Black people and other people of color experience unsheltered homelessness at disproportionate rates, the Racial Equity Committee (REC) thinks it is critical that the REC is intimately involved in these workgroups and broader CoC conversations about unsheltered homelessness.

Racial Equity Committee Request for OAC Committee

The REC is requesting the following to ensure that conversations and policy changes related to unsheltered homelessness are grounded in racial equity:

- The OAC committee commits to ensuring that at least one OAC racial equity liaison is a member of each workgroup (unsheltered and outreach).

- That the workgroups meet with the REC to discuss how workgroup processes can be shaped by a racial equity impact analysis and meaningful engagement with people with lived experience and expertise.
- That the REC is updated on OAC workgroup progress on an ongoing basis (either in writing or in person). Given the role of the Mayors Working Group in addressing unsheltered homelessness, the REC also recommends that the mayor workgroup receives ongoing updates and engages in the process as much as possible to support policy and strategy alignment.

Outreach Workgroup

Hosted By: Outreach Access and Coordination Committee

Committee Member Sponsor: Kate Hart

Committee Leads: ??

Meeting Date/Time:

??*

Purpose of the Workgroup:

Define current outreach strategies, capacity, and capability. Understand the landscape of key players, engage with those directly in the field. Define goals for outcomes and impacts. Develop strategies to enhance efforts and increase both output, outcomes, and impact.

Connection to OAC Workplan and/or Home Together Plan:

OAC Workplan tasks: Enhance Outreach Coordination. Recruit Outreach providers to join OAC
Home Together Plan actions: Tailor outreach and prioritization to reach those at highest risk and coordinate these efforts in all areas of the county, Offer housing problem solving training, Add access point outreach staff to connect people to services in the field, Provide support to service providers, clinics, outreach teams and nonprofit organizations serving homeless populations to improve their ability to hire, train and retain staff.

Upcoming Meeting Topics:

- Getting to know existing Outreach teams operating in Alameda County
- Gaps analysis of outreach capacity
- Strategic brainstorm

Volunteers to Date:

Phil Clark, Kate Hart,

Volunteers Needed:

- ACHCH Team Members
- Outreach Providers and others regularly engaged with Unsheltered populations
- Persons with Lived Expertise of Homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness
- Members of Racial Equity Committee

*note that work here may be impacted by work in the Unsheltered Workgroup so a staggered start is recommended

Unsheltered Workgroup

Hosted By: Outreach Access and Coordination Committee

Committee Member Sponsor: Kate Hart

Committee Leads: Amy Cole-Bloom? Lucy Kasdin?

Meeting Date/Time:

Wednesdays, 3pm-5pm?? February thru April?

Purpose of the Workgroup:

Review existing plans to address unsheltered homelessness and identify areas to improve and/or support those plans. Identify metrics for evaluating impact of the plans. Define CoC role in addressing unsheltered and/or encampments as special populations.

Connection to OAC Workplan and/or Home Together Plan:

OAC Workplan tasks: Unsheltered/Encampment CE policy review. Increase access to CES for unsheltered.

Home Together Plan actions: Ensure emergency shelters reduce unnecessary program requirements that discourage use or exclude people who need shelter, Prioritize using a harm reduction approach and making efforts to meet the specific and varied needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Improve communication to advertise the availability of resources for households experiencing homelessness, Implement an exit strategy for all unhoused criminal justice clients that includes shelter, housing, and supportive and behavioral health services, Connect transition age youth leaving foster care to youth-dedicated rapid and supportive housing programs through ongoing resources targeted to youth nearing exit from foster care, Ensure crisis response and support is accessible for unsheltered people, and that mental health and harm reduction services are available for people in shelters and other programs in the homelessness response system.

Upcoming Meeting Topics:

- Understanding the funded Alameda County Unsheltered SNOFO projects in detail - by Abt?
- Looking at definitions of 'encampment' in other CA communities, understanding what HUD is doing on encampment work - by Abt?
- Discussion defining the CoC role in encampment work
- Repeat and possibly record a CES policy and procedures 101 - perhaps by Colleen?
- Understanding the Assessment Questions in more detail and how they become a vulnerability score - perhaps Colleen?

Volunteers to Date:

Kerry Abbott, Anna Fellers, Lucy Kasdin, Peter Radu, Veronica Alder

Volunteers Needed:

- Providers funded by Unsheltered SNOFO Funds
- Homeless Advocacy Working Group (HAWG)
- Outreach Providers and others regularly engaged with Unsheltered populations
- Persons with Lived Expertise of Homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness
- Members of Racial Equity Committee

