

**Outreach Access and Coordination
Committee
Minutes
February 14, 2024
2:00pm – 4:00pm**

Agenda

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| <p>1) Welcome / Introductions (Kate Hart)</p> | <p>2:00pm – 2:05pm</p> |
| <p>2) Approval of minutes, January 10th, 2023 (Kate Hart) <i>No roll call vote is needed, corrections not already received by Homebase will be noted and minutes changed accordingly.</i></p> | <p>2:05pm – 2:10pm</p> |
| <p>3) Public Comment (Kate Hart)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courtney Pal, RCD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City of Oakland – HUD TA team working on making affordable housing more accessible. From one of those meetings, a takeaway was an opportunity for better info sharing and coordination between housing providers and CoC committees. Housing providers are not involved in the CoC as much as they could be, and we want to improve this coordination. • Kerry Abbott <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In response to working group about CE on behalf of the management entity: it would be great to have CE participate in a conversation with the housing developers. Lots of opportunity for myth-busting or answer questions about confusing processes. • Marcela Munoz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Want this group to be more data-focused and to see more data so that we can see what is / isn't working and how to improve things. • <i>No written comments submitted.</i> | <p>2:10pm – 2:15pm</p> |
| <p>4) Urgent Items (Kim Natarajan)</p> <p><i>No urgent items.</i></p> | <p>2:15pm – 2:20pm</p> |
| <p>5) Homeless System Updates (All)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominations committee has re-opened. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If you are interested in supporting work through April (1 hour per week) please email esther@homebaseccc.org or alameda@homebaseccc.org. | <p>2:20pm – 2:25pm</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial Equity Committee seeking feedback on draft “<u>Racial Equity Framework</u>”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ REC is hosting office hours for feedback on Feb 22 and March 21, 11am-12pm. https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/j/81713557958 • Save the Date - April 24th: Spring General Community Meeting at Cal Endowment in Oakland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Times and agenda details will be out shortly. • City of Hayward city council adopted city state of emergency on homelessness (in alignment with County-wide state of emergency) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This declaration adds flexibility on local zoning to support shelter expansion as well as supports for people at risk of homelessness ○ City of Hayward State of Emergency info here. • Colleen Budenholzer is moving to a different role with OHCC, Kerry Abbott stepping in temporarily as CES Management Entity representative for OAC. • Phil Clark: We have extra air filters for large congregate shelters for people! See here and here. | |
| <p>6) Shelter Accessibility in Alameda County (Catherine Casimere)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alameda County has shelter accessibility standards that were approved in 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These include ADA compliance requirements that shelters have to implement. ○ There are also trainings for staff on these topics. • What else would this group like to know about how folks with accessibility challenges/needs are getting into shelters or other housing opportunities in the county? Brainstorm session- What are the questions we have? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>See notes below this table for additional details.</i> • OAC would like to follow-up with commenter who brought this up and share what our next steps are accordingly. | <p>2:25pm - 2:55pm</p> |
| <p>7) Unsheltered and Outreach Workgroup Developments (Kate Hart)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Unsheltered workgroup volunteers so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Kerry Abbott, Anna Fellers, Lucy Kasdin, Peter Radu, Veronica Alder, Laurie Flores, Nic Ming, Stacey Burmaster, Jenn Oakley, Kara Carnahan, Amy Cole-Bloom. b) Outreach workgroup volunteers so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Phil Clark, Kate Hart, Kara Carnahan | <p>2:55pm – 3:40pm</p> |

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| <p>c) It is proposed that the Unsheltered efforts may impact the Outreach workgroup efforts, therefore we are planning to open the Unsheltered workgroup first and then add the Outreach workgroup later.</p> <p>d) REC Memo to OAC</p> <p>i) The REC has requested the be connected to the two new OAC workgroups on the themes of Unsheltered and Outreach work. The group agreed that REC should be connected, OAC liaisons to REC volunteered to join the two committees to maintain the connection.</p> | |
| <p>8) 2024 Workplan Status Update (Amy Cole-Bloom)</p> <p>a) The OAC workplan was revised based on group feedback. We will continue to provide status updates on the various OAC projects at monthly meetings as a standing item.</p> | 3:40pm – 3:55pm |
| <p>9) Closing</p> <p>a) Upcoming Agenda Items</p> <p>Next meeting: March 13th, 2023</p> | 3:55pm – 4:00pm |

Shelter Accessibility Discussion Notes

Questions about Access to Shelters for those with Disabilities?

- How accessible are which shelters?
 - We know some have elevators, some have ramps, etc. – what is the landscape?
 - What data do we have? Do we know what is or isn't working?
 - Who monitors the shelters' accessibility capacity?
 - SSA standards apply to all County funded shelters
 - How do we ensure consistency of standards across the County no matter the funding source?
 - Could the Standards Compliance and Funding (SCF) Committee take a look? How do the existing CoC Standards talk about this?
- What funding is there to support shelters to help meet standards?
- What resources/standards exist now?
 - ADA Shelter Checklist: <https://archive.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap7shelterchk.htm>
 - SSA Shelter Standards cover any County-funded shelter, higher bar (more detailed standard) than simply ADA
 - CoC Written Standards also reference ADA
 - [ALAMEDA COUNTY EMERGENCY SHELTER STANDARDS FOR YEAR-ROUND SHELTERS \(2022 version\)](#)
 - Additional City standards also exist which might be found in city-funded shelter contracts

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- We are unlikely to need a new set of shelter standards but perhaps the committee can focus on developing consistency of implementation, having enough resources, tracking gaps, ensuring clear complaint procedures with follow-up, and maintaining awareness of gaps
- Operationally, how do we respond to needs?
- Overall, what are the gaps?
- How do we process (and fund) reasonable accommodations needs?
- Real life scenarios should be considered
 - May shelters use bunk beds. Understanding lower bunks are needed for older/disability situations, the use of bunk beds creates chances that someone would be turned away due to only top bunks available. Still a reliance on single beds is unrealistic and would greatly reduce bed availability overall.
 - Someone's accessibility issues may change from night to night, such as with an injury. Individual shelters need to have a process to adapt to those types of situations
 - There are wide differences in abilities for people with similar named conditions and it won't be a uniform answer of who would or would not be able to use a top bunk

- **Next steps on this topic**
 - Review Alameda County Emergency Shelter Standards April 2022
 - Reconnect with original commenter with an update on status, direct them to appropriate grievance process for that particular facility
 - Laurie Flores to help compose a response
 - Note that the CoC does not specific oversight on certain parts of this issue
 - Explore this topic with the Standards, Funding, and Compliance Committee

Potential useful links on this topic:

<https://homelessness.acgov.org/homelessness-assets/docs/news/Alameda-County-Emergency-Shelter-Standards-April-2022-update-FINAL-2023.02.23.pdf>

<https://homelessness.acgov.org/homelessness-assets/docs/news/Alameda-County-Homelessness-Response-System%20Written-Standards-Final-Adopted-2.8.23-2023.20.27.pdf>

<https://archive.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap7shelterchk.htm>

Attendance



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| Committee member | Attendance |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Alison Dejung | present |
| Amy Cole-Bloom | present |
| Ariana Nawabi | absent |
| Catharine Casimere | present |
| Collen Budenholzer | present |
| Daniel Scott | present |
| Jenn Oakley | present |
| Kara Carnahan | present |
| Kate Hart | present |
| Laurie Flores | present |
| Stacey Burmaster | present |
| Stephanie Semien | present |
| Tiara Jones | present |
| Marcela Munoz | present |
| Veronica Alder | present |

Public Attendees

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| Alex Baker |
| Adriann Pemberton |
| Bridgitte Cook |
| Nic Ming |
| Chloe Green |
| Courtney |
| Hanna Toda |
| Ray Corona |
| Phil Clark |
| Sadia Khan |
| Kerry Abbott |
| Ms Veronica Alder |
| Suzanne Warner |
| Anna Fellers |
| Andrea Zeppa |