



EveryOneHome

# Outreach, Access and Coordination Committee

October 9, 2024



# Welcome/Introductions

- New folks say hello!
- OAC is tasked with:
  - Ensuring people experiencing homelessness receive available services tailored to their individual needs
  - Supporting providers in the system to offer welcoming and effective points of engagement
  - coordinating, monitoring, and improving the quality and effectiveness of outreach, coordinated entry and other services



# Agenda

1. Welcome / Introduction
2. Minutes
3. Public Comment
4. Urgent Items and/or Homeless System Updates
5. Action Item: Unsheltered Workgroup Report-Out
6. Past CES Evaluation Reports
7. CES Evaluation Process Discussion
8. Closing



# Approval of Minutes

- No roll call vote is needed, corrections not already received by Homebase will be noted and minutes changed accordingly.



# Public Comment



# Homelessness System Updates



- +
- 
- 
- **Community Meeting Save the Date**
  - Community Meeting will be Tuesday, October 29th and Wednesday, October 30th
  - The event will be held at the California Endowment, 2000 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612. A virtual option will be available.
  - Programming will be from approximately 9am to 4pm with a full agenda to be announced at a later date.
  - If you have any questions, please email [alameda@homebaseccc.org](mailto:alameda@homebaseccc.org).
- **Reminder of Meeting Norms**
  - Removing jargon from meeting spaces, use the whole word not just the acronyms. These spaces are to be open and welcoming for anyone unfamiliar with the housing world jargon.
  - Homebase/chairs/others will step up in providing more guidance around supporting this meeting norm

# Unsheltered Workgroup Report- Out



Kim Natarajan, Homebase



# Original Instructions to the Unsheltered Workgroup

Both the Leadership Board, and the Outreach Access and Coordination Committee made formal motions to explore topics on Unsheltered and Encampment residents. Together, these assignments included discussions on:

1. Elaborate on **strategies to end unsheltered homelessness**

1. **Define our CoC role** in encampment resolution and serving unsheltered
2. Review options in general for encampment response

2. Further Conversation on **integrating state law with CE** (ab1285 etc.)

3. Further Conversation on **evaluating how we capture environmental concerns and other vulnerabilities** related to encampment conditions in the CE process.

Link to [unsheltered workgroup summary 9-11-2024](#)



# Where we are today – encampment response

- The Unsheltered SNOFO reporting requirements need a **CoC-wide definition of ‘encampment’**
  - *proposal is ready for vote today – there was no quorum last meeting, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and we need to review the information again to successfully move to the next stage.*
- The political landscape around encampment response is intensifying:
  - Supreme Court decision on Grant’s Pass
  - Governor Newsom’s Order
  - Oakland, Berkeley, and other City policy decisions
- The unsheltered workgroup would like direction on how to move forward:
  - Draft an independent document describing the CoC role in encampment response
  - Provide input and collaborate with what cities, through the Mayors’ Technical Working Group, have developed to make decisions for navigating encampment responses.
    - [The Encampment Prioritization Matrix.](#)
- We hope to vote on these items today as we are scheduled to provide an update to the leadership board tomorrow, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

# Agreements within the Workgroup

**In general,**

- **Criminalization of homelessness is never the right approach.**
  - The changing political landscape adds an element of urgency develop shared expectations for the treatment of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
  - Cities are in a position to potentially make conflicting choices in their approach, which could complicate county-wide efforts. Notably, pushing individuals from one jurisdiction to another.
- At present, the **CoC has a limited amount of influence** over encampment response.

# Agreements within the Workgroup

## When it comes to developing shared expectations,

- The CoC has a responsibility to County-wide needs, which may vary from City-level needs. However, **a joint understanding of guiding principles** shared among the CoC, County, and Cities would be valuable. *For example: Client Choice*
- **We agree in general** with the guiding principles named in the TWG drafted Matrix, and would also say there is room for improvements and additions to enhance this starting point. *For example: Accountability*
- **Providers need guidance** as well, on how to utilize the limited resources available to encampment response.

# Agreements within the Workgroup

## In the big picture,

- **More resources are needed** in encampment response.
- CES resources, primarily Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), are already a very limited resource, insufficient to meet the need. They also are only one potential pathway to permanent housing.
- Without a place for people to go, encampment closures only move unhoused people around, causing them harm.
- Closure should be reserved for the **most dangerous emergency-only situations** to minimize this harm.

# Questions Remain for OAC Today

**What role does the CoC want to have in encampment response?**

- **Do we want to issue a best practices guide, or similar document?**
- If yes,
  - Who will decide what is in the document?
  - Will the CoC add more resources to encampment response?
  - Noting that closures will happen whether we want them to or not, what does a best practice look like that minimizes trauma?
  - How can dangerous encampments be prevented in the first place?
  - How can we provide clear information and expectations for providers doing this work?

The [Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative Encampment Prioritization Tool](#) can serve as a reference point to compare with other community responses.

# Action Item 1:

## **Proposed Definition of Encampment, for use in Unsheltered SNOFO Reporting Context:**

“A place where one or more people stay for a continuous time with the presence of physical structures (tents, vehicles, etc.) and/or a constant or recurring collection of belongings. Both the person and the physical structure or collection of belongings have been present in the same location more than one night.”



# Action Item 2:

## Choose an Option to proceed further defining CoC role in encampment response:

- 1) Make no written stance on CoC role in encampment response at this time
  - This option is not recommended by the workgroup
- 2) Make an independent document for describing CoC role in encampment response, to include:
  - Defining best practices
  - Outlining key procedures
- 3) Edit a joint document with the TWG - starting with what they have drafted for the Matrix
  - TWG has expressed interest in working with CoC on this



# Additional Considerations

If we decide to move with options 2 or 3, drafting or editing a written document:

- Who needs to be in the room to make decisions?
  - Cities, Providers, People with Lived Experience, Outreach Workers, County Representatives, Continuum of Care representatives...
- Is the CoC going to add resources to encampment response?
- As a CoC, when do we say it is appropriate to close an encampment?
  - What if there are not enough resources available to attend to those displaced?
- What can the CoC do to ensure minimal trauma for displaced encampment residents?
  - I.e.: Enhance partnerships, improve procedures, name best practices...
- What can we do to prevent dangerous situations in the first place?



# Past Coordinated Entry Evaluation Report



Alameda County Housing &  
Homelessness Services (H&H)

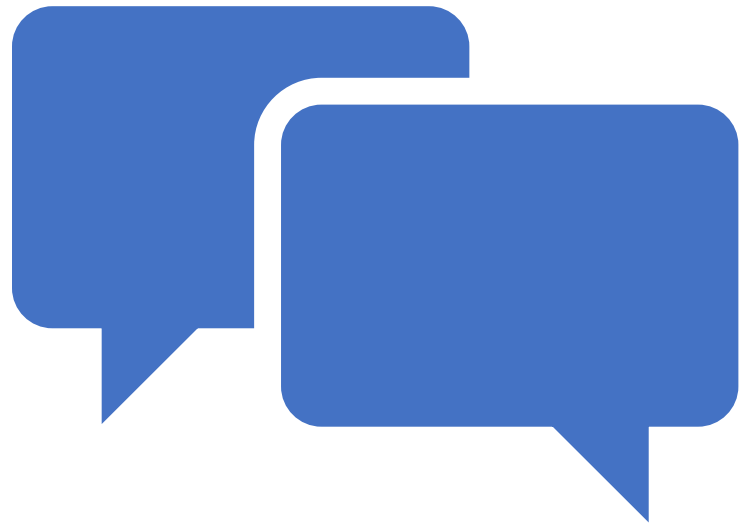


# Coordinated Entry Evaluation Process Discussion



Alameda County Housing &  
Homelessness Services (H&H)  
and Kate Hart





Discussion

# Closing

- Next Meeting to be held November 13th
- Upcoming Meeting Agenda Items:

