

# THE OAKLAND, BERKELEY/ ALAMEDA COUNTY CoC Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee August 13, 2025 1:30-3:00 PM Minutes

**Link to Zoom Meeting** 

Phone: <u>1 386-347-5053</u> Meeting ID: 83085774509

Meetings are public. Alameda County residents with lived experience of homelessness are encouraged to attend. Public Comment will be taken at the beginning of each meeting and is limited to 2 minutes per person.

### Helpful links:

- **Google drive folder** for the Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee: <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zPoP9Q\_HT-Q9rCaXvKazzlURH-vfndxt?usp=drive\_link">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zPoP9Q\_HT-Q9rCaXvKazzlURH-vfndxt?usp=drive\_link</a>
- **Website page** (on EveryOne Home website) for the Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee: <a href="https://everyonehome.org/about/committees/housing-stability-and-homelessness-prevention-committee/">https://everyonehome.org/about/committees/housing-stability-and-homelessness-prevention-committee/</a>
- Acronyms and Glossary:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1l8hFMAU2IE-FqYmK8TZ9Hp40vmS1zRck9EBEbPlbwy8/edit?usp=drive link

#### Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee is to develop strategies and collaborations to prevent new homelessness, including for formerly homeless people who have moved into housing. Learn more about the Committee's purpose <a href="here">here</a>.

## Meeting Purpose / Overview

The purpose of this meeting was to: (1) receive an update on the Alameda County 10-Year Housing Plan and Measure W; (2) review responses received from Homelessness Prevention Programs for the Prevention Program Chart and discuss final efforts to obtain information from programs for the final chart; and (3) review responses from Program Participants for the Prevention Program Chart.

#### Minutes

- 1. <u>Welcome/Introductions</u> (Logan McDonnell, Co-Chair)
  - a. Minutes from July 9<sup>th</sup> approved.
- 2. <u>Public Comment</u> (Logan McDonnell, Co-Chair)
  - a. No public comment.
- **3.** Announcements (Kris Maun, Homebase)
  - a. HMIS Data Quality
    - i. The HMIS Committee has formed a workgroup to better understand the barriers service providers face in maintaining high-quality data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This includes challenges related to timeliness, completeness, accuracy, and utilization.
    - ii. Data quality directly impacts: Accurate counts of people experiencing homelessness, tracking where people are going within the system, Understanding the length of time individuals spend in services, measuring outcome data like exit destinations, HUD reporting compliance, CoC NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) competitiveness, Ensuring equity in our data and services
    - iii. We are seeking input from: Coordinated Entry Providers using HMIS, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing providers, Other HMIS-participating service providers, City Government Partners who use HMIS or manage providers that use the HMIS and/or who work directly with the HMIS Lead Team
    - iv. How You Can Participate:

The workgroup is offering the following ways to share your insights:

- Virtual focus groups reach out to Jose Lucio (<u>jose@homebaseccc.org</u>) and Matthieu Kaman (Matthieu@homebaseccc.org) to participate!
- 2. Electronic survey Survey link
- b. Richard commented encouraging people to read Measure W in full for themselves, claimed it doesn't really help those who are homeless or in poverty.
- **4.** <u>Evidence-Based Solutions Report Out</u> (Ms. Shelley Gonzalez; Morgan Bernados, Homebase)
  - a. ESC page: <a href="https://everyonehome.org/about/committees/evidence-based-solutions-committee/">https://everyonehome.org/about/committees/evidence-based-solutions-committee/</a>
  - b. The next Evidence-Based Solutions Committee meeting is Thursday, August 14th from 11:00am-1:00pm. Zoom link available on the EveryOne Home website.
  - c. The next Learning Community will be on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and will be an open forum discussion on Measure W.

# 5. <u>Updates on the Alameda County 10-Year Housing Plan and Measure W Funding</u> (Dylan Sweeney and Logan McDonnell, Co-Chairs)

- a. In the last meeting, the Committee voted to send a letter to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors urging them to allocate Measure W funding for the Alameda County Homelessness Prevention Framework. The Committee will receive an update on Measure W and the Alameda County Housing Plan.
- b. Full slides here.
- c. Presentation Highlights:
  - i. At the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors allocated 80% of Measure W to be used for homelessness services. Dylan reminded the Committee that it's been a very long process to get Measure W in motion and we can all celebrate that we do have direction from the Board of Supervisors to allocate and start spending this money.
  - ii. Measure W will go towards the following: Home Together Fund (80%) which is based on the Home Together 2030 Plan, Essential County Services Fund (10%), and Reserves for economic shortfall (10%).
  - iii. Home Together Fund priorities: new construction, interim solutions, and programs and operating resources, and prevention strategies like emergency rental assistance, housing-related financial assistance, housing problem solving, short-term housing stabilization, and shallow subsidies.
  - iv. Dylan also shared that the Board of Supervisors passed on consent the Alameda County Housing and Community Development Housing Plan. 10% of whatever funds become available for the Housing plan would go towards housing services and crisis intervention which is aligned with how this Committee thinks or prevention services and other stabilizing services such as legal support. The remaining 90% is for home ownership support and development and other rental tax credits.

#### d. Discussion Summary:

- i. Richard discussed the impact on people in encampments being kicked out or asked to relocate themselves and the need to focus on mental illness, starting with that. Logan shared that the County's behavioral health department does look at those things. Dylan also shared that Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness (H+H) has done a lot of work to build in Measure W Guidance Principles for results-based accountability so that all results are effective and produce the best outcomes for folks. Overall, though, the work of this Committee is not focused on encampments but on prevention.
- ii. Jeannettee Rodriguez (Alameda County H+H) also wanted to recognize the very uncertain federal landscape and how Measure W will be a key funding source to help sustain programs and initiatives that are getting cuts in their federal funding. This also includes the over 800 Emergency Housing Vouchers that are in existence that are about to lose their federal funding, which was intended to be long term.
- iii. There was also a question from Hugo Ramirez (City of Oakland) as to why initial projections seem to take federal backfill dollars out of the prevention funding allocation even when the programs being backfilled aren't prevention programs. Jeannette shared that H+H will continue to have community feedback sessions about how the money should be allocated so invited Hugo to raise the question there for a more concrete answer.

- 1. Ms. Shelley raised concerns about having more feedback sessions in the community when so much feedback and planning has already been done. Wants the funding to hit the ground and not spend more time gathering input when so much has already been gathered. Also raised concerns that it seems there was not enough contingency planning done to account for the slow timelines of releasing the funds and procuring services and programs.
  - a. Dylan and Logan shared appreciation for Ms. Shelley sharing her thoughts in the space and agreed the process has been painfully slow.
- 2. Jeannette shared that these feedback sessions are to respond to other providers and advocates who want more forums to weigh in on how this money will be used. But the overall flow of money is not being slowed down by these community input sessions.
- 3. Dylan also shared that even though a lot of feedback has been broadly collected on how the money should be used and prioritized, there is still a need to engage with specific organizations and assess who has the capacity to operationalize the money and enter into contract to carry out the priorities. That feedback and procurement process takes a long time. Even when thinking about the money going towards development, the buildings available to invest in or operate are different than what was available when Measure W was first being debated, so you have to go back into the community and see who the money should go to now that we're ready to actually write checks. The community feedback sessions are about having the most up-to-date information as possible.
- iv. There were discussions about initial calculations of how much money would be going to each prevention intervention, but no numbers are finalized at this time.
- v. Luke also weighed in on the political layers of the process so that regardless of how much County staff do research and gather feedback and prepare, the Board of Supervisors and political capacity for implementation is where there can be a delay. A lot of us on this call have been ready and informed for a long time, but there are other actors in the bigger context that add to the complexity.
- vi. Myette Anderson (City of Berkeley) asked how funds would be directed to different agencies or cites, how that process would look. Jeannette shared that procurement is starting to be underway and will continue to occur. Jeannette shared that they're looking towards expanding scattered site units through a flex pool model. There's interim housing expansion that is taking place soon. Overall procurement processes will begin to happen and there will be future specificity of allocation per year.
- 6. Review and Discuss the Homelessness Prevention Program Survey for Prevention Program Chart (Kris Maun, Homebase, and Dylan Sweeney and Logan McDonnell, Co-Chairs)
  - a. The Committee has been working on a project to prepare a Homelessness Prevention Program Chart. A project memo is available here. As part of this project, the Committee has prepared a Homelessness Prevention Program Survey. For the last few months, Committee members have been contacting homelessness

- prevention programs and asking them to complete the survey. While some programs have responded, some programs have not. The Committee members reviewed the responses that have been received and will discuss any final steps to collect information from programs, for example, offering a brief meeting to go through the survey with a prevention program while they complete it.
- b. Kris shared that the survey has only had 9 responses and some notable programs we know are operating prevention services are not included, haven't responded. The Committee clarified some of the contacts and agreed its worth re-engaging again. There was also a request to make the initial email clearer as some providers may have been confused thinking the survey was only for program participants. Kris and Morgan from Homebase will work to clarify and shorten the reach out email template.
- 7. Review and Discuss Program Participant Survey for Prevention Program Chart (Kris Maun, Homebase, and Dylan Sweeney and Logan McDonnell, Co-Chairs)
  - a. In addition to the Homelessness Prevention Program survey, the Committee members have also been distributing a <u>Program Participant Survey</u>. The Committee members reviewed the responses received from program participants.
  - b. Overall, there have been 20 responses plus one outlier that was giving feedback on the survey itself. Most responses were from BACS or Eviction Defense Center. There were also responses from people who received services at Housing For Keys, Covenant House, Veteran's Administration, St. Mary's, and BOSS.
  - c. 78% of folks received services just one time. The time range for receiving services among respondents ranged from 6 months to 2 years.
  - d. The most common time of prevention service received was rental assistance, assistance with back rent. This could be because of which programs were active in getting folks to fill out the survey.
  - e. 70% of respondents said the intervention prevented them from being homeless.
  - f. The survey also asks about access, and two participants identified personal needs that must be accounted for for services, and one was disability transportation and a lack of computer, and neither said that they were able to meet those needs. Someone also mentioned need for assistance with a service animal.
  - g. Overall positive experiences with prevention programs, only one person said they did not receive phone calls or contact after reaching out to a program. Everyone else said not only did they appreciate the program, they said they wish they could continue to go back, and they could get more services in the future.
- 8. Next Meeting is Wednesday, September 10, 2025 from 1:30-3:00 (Dylan Sweeney and Logan McDonnell, Co-Chairs)
  - a. Agenda item requests can be sent to <a href="mailto:alameda@homebaseccc.org">alameda@homebaseccc.org</a>.
  - b. William Mendoza (RCD) suggested looking at what other Bay Area counties are doing around prevention to see what this Committee can learn, recommend, and implement. One example was a pilot program through Tipping Point in San Francisco.

# **Committee Members**

Dylan Sweeney	Alameda County HCD	Present
Eleni Spiru	Swords to Plowshares	Absent
Hugo Ramirez	City of Oakland	Present
Myette Anderson	City of Berkeley	Present
Jeanette Rodriguez	Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness Services	Present
Logan McDonnell	BACS	Present
Luke Barnesmoore	Home Match—Front Porch	Present
Hamilton Hunt	BOSS	Present
Ms. Shelley Gonzalez	Leadership Board	Present
Richard Nudelman	Emerging Leaders	Present
William Mendoza	Resources for Community Development	Present
Freeway Blalock	Wood Street Commons/ West Oakland Homeless Union	Present
Michael Esparza	Tri-Valley Haven	Present
Elsie Lee	Leadership Board	Present

# Public Attendance:

- Morgan Bernados, Homebase
- Kris Maun, Homebase
- Sky Mihaylo, Government Performance Lab
- Kelsey Knutson, BACS
- Qimmah Hameed, BACS