



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

## AGENDA

**DATE:** Thursday, May 18th, 2023, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

**LOCATION:**

2120 Diamond Blvd, Concord – McMorro Training Room ([map](#))

*While the use of masking is not required, it is recommended. Masks will be available at the meeting.*

**PUBLIC ACCESS:**

The public may attend this meeting in person at the above location. The public also may attend this meeting remotely via Zoom or call-in. Login information and call-in information is provided below.

**HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING VIA ZOOM:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocemopjstGNNAJIO78yDKv\\_ZDRAPxJR-g](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocemopjstGNNAJIO78yDKv_ZDRAPxJR-g)

**HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING VIA CALL-IN:**

1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 885 6008 0727

Passcode: 718157

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
9:00	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b>Hybrid Meeting Norms</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b>Public Comment</b> – Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.	- <i>Members of the public</i>
9:25	<b>PIT Count/HIC Update</b> – Update on PIT Count/HIC results and reporting plans	- <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i>
9:45	<b>Prevention Learning Cohort Update</b> – Report out on recent work and learnings from the cohort	- <i>Jo Bruno, Committee Member</i>
10:00	<b>Prevention and Coordinated Entry</b> – Overview of prevention services provided by Caminar and connections with Coordinated Entry System	- <i>Mary Fitzgerald, H3</i> - <i>Caminar representative</i>
10:30	<b>Preview: Prevention and Rapid Exit Program Models Review</b> – Preview of upcoming work for the Committee	- <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i>
10:45	<b>Announcements</b>	- <i>All</i>
10:50	<b>Next Steps</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>



## PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

### **HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Persons who wish to address the Council on Homelessness during public comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the Council on Homelessness that are not on the agenda, or who wish to comment with respect to an item on the agenda, may comment in person, via Zoom, or via call-in. Those participating in person should stand where they are sitting when called upon. Those participating via Zoom should indicate they wish to speak by using the “raise your hand” feature in the Zoom app. Those calling in should indicate they wish to speak by dialing \*9 on their phone. All public comments will be limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

For assistance with remote access contact: [contracostacoc@cchealth.org](mailto:contracostacoc@cchealth.org) or call 925-608-6700  
Public comments may also be submitted before the meeting by email at [contracostacoc@cchealth.org](mailto:contracostacoc@cchealth.org) or by voicemail at 925-608-6700. Comments submitted by email or voicemail will be included in the record of the meeting but will not be read or played aloud during the meeting.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness to a majority of members less than 72 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 2400 Bisso Lane, Building D, 2nd Floor, Concord, CA 94520 during normal business hours. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full workday prior to the published meeting time. The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend meetings. Contact the H3 office at least 72 hours before the meeting: Phone: (925) 608-6700; Email: [cchomelesscouncil@cchealth.org](mailto:cchomelesscouncil@cchealth.org)



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

## Commonly Used Acronyms and Terms

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
BOS	Board of Supervisors (Contra Costa County)
BCSH	California Business Consumer, Services and Housing Agency
CARE	Coordinated Assessment and Resource
CCACS/CCYCS	Contra Costa Adult Continuum of Service/ Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services (H3 programs)
CDBG, CDBG-CV	Community Development Block Grant (federal and state programs) and the federal Community Development Block Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
CESH	California Emergency Solutions and Housing program (state funding)
COH	Council on Homelessness
Continuum of Care (CoC)	Continuum of Care approach to assistance to the homeless. Federal grant program promoting and funding permanent solutions to homelessness.
Con Plan	Consolidated Plan, a locally developed plan for housing assistance and urban development under CDBG.
CES/CE	Coordinated Entry
CNWS	Concord Naval Weapons Station
CORE	Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement program
COVID-19	Coronavirus
DCD	Contra Costa Department of Conservation and Development
DOC	Department Operations Center
CDSS	California Department of Social Services
EHSD	(Contra Costa County) Employment and Human Services Division
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ESG and ESG-CV	Emergency Solutions Grant (federal and state program) and the federal Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
FMR	Fair Market Rent (maximum rent for Section 8 rental assistance/CoC grants)
HCD	Housing and Community Development (State office)
HCFC	Housing Coordinating and Financing Council (state governing board under BCSH)
HEAP	Homeless Emergency Aid Program (state funding)
HEARTH	Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009
HHAP	Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (state funding);
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships (CPD program)
Homekey	California funding to support development of interim and permanent housing
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (federal)
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act



Contra Costa Continuum of Care

# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Acronym	Definition
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
PHA	Public Housing Authority
Project Roomkey	COVID-related State funding program to support de-congregating homeless shelters using hotels/motels.
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
PUI	Persons Under Investigation
RFP/RFQ/LOI	Request for Proposal/Request for Qualifications/Letter of Intent related to funding opportunities
RRH	Rapid Rehousing
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 16-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
<p><i>Contra Costa County COVID-19 Resources:</i>  Please see below for additional resources on COVID-19.  Health Services COVID Data Dashboard- <a href="https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/dashboard">https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/dashboard</a>  Health Services Homeless Specific Data Dashboard- <a href="https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/homeless-dashboard">https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/homeless-dashboard</a>  Health Services COVID Updates- <a href="https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/health-services-updates">https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/health-services-updates</a>  Health Services Homeless-Specific COVID Resources -<a href="https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-the-homeless">https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-the-homeless</a></p>	



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE

May 18, 2023, 9:00 – 11:00 am

# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

*PATH Innovations Committee is comprised of a diverse group of community stakeholders and CoC partners who commit to leading, monitoring, implementing, and assigning priorities to reduce unsheltered homelessness by 75% by the end of 2024.*

# ROLL CALL

PATH Innovations Committee Members

## Just Cause

- A need to care for a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner
- A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person;
- A need related to a physical or mental disability that is not otherwise accommodated for; or
- Travel while on official business of the body or another state or local agency.

## Emergency Circumstances

- A physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

# VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE EXEMPTION



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Deanne Pearn

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Iman Novin

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Jo Bruno

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Juno Hedrick

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Shawn Ray

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Teri House

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Tony Ucciferri

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Wayne Earl

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

# INTRODUCTIONS

H3 Staff  
Homebase  
Focus Strategies  
Stakeholders

# HYBRID MEETING NORMS

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

# HYBRID MEETING NORMS

1. Masking is recommended but not required (masks are available)
2. Social distancing – red = please keep safe distance, green = ask first
3. Raise your hand (actual or virtual) before speaking
4. Say your name and if you're a Committee member before speaking
5. 2-minute timer for public comments
6. Maintain a safe and respectful environment, even when disagreeing
7. Make and take space – consider your privilege and other voices who are in and not in the room
8. Minimize distractions like side conversations and cell phone use
9. Food and drink – please clean up and be mindful of smells and allergens

# HYBRID MEETING NORMS

An individual may be asked to leave should they behave in a manner that threatens the safety of the group or does not honor these meeting norms.

# REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

# ACTION ITEM

- Approve minutes from the April 20, 2023 PATH Innovation Committee meeting.



# PUBLIC COMMENT

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

*Open period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.*



# PIT COUNT/HIC UPDATE

*Dana Ewing, H3*

# 2023 PIT RESULTS

**2,372**

people were experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- 70% were unsheltered
- 30% were sheltered

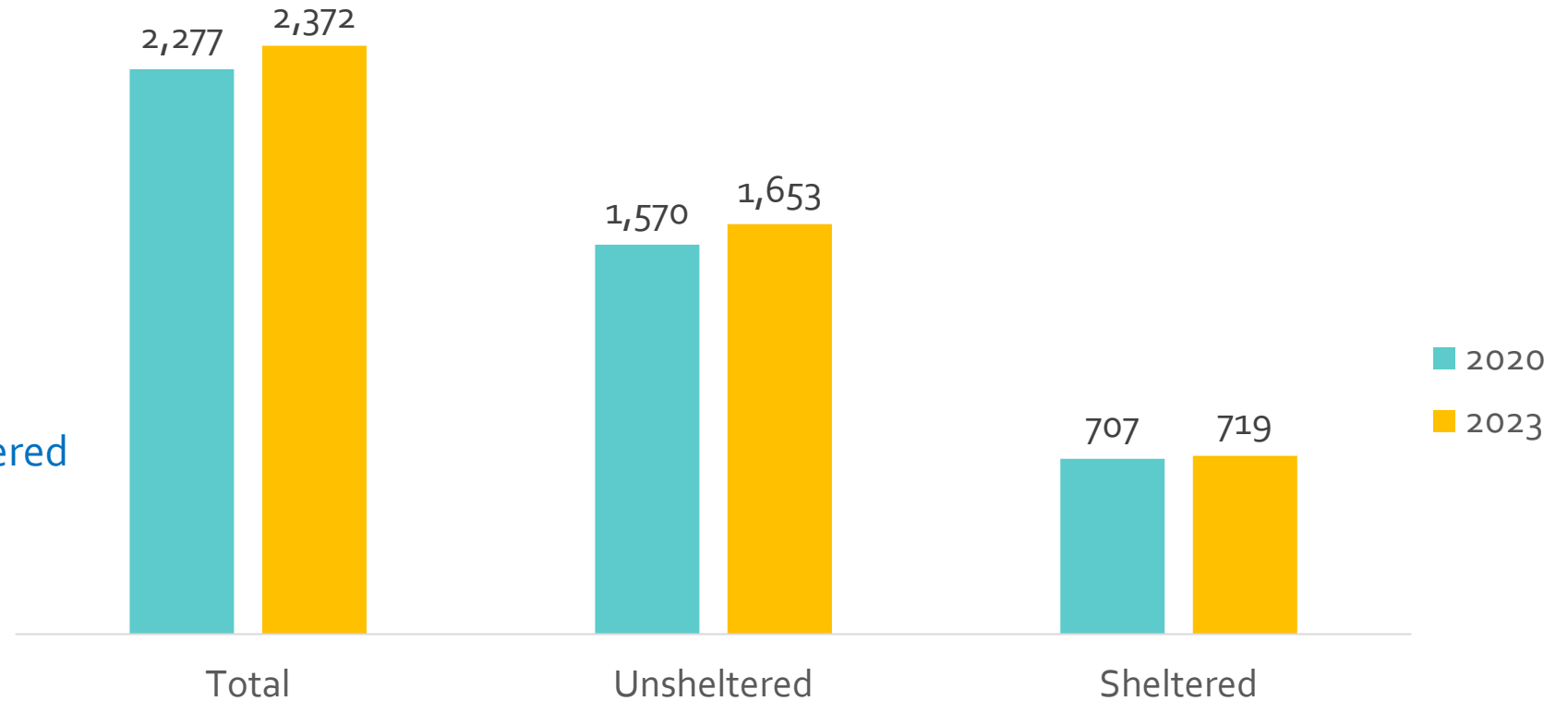


# 2023 PIT RESULTS

Number of Homeless Individuals, by Sheltered and Unsheltered Status, 2020 vs 2023

4% increase in the total homeless population since 2020

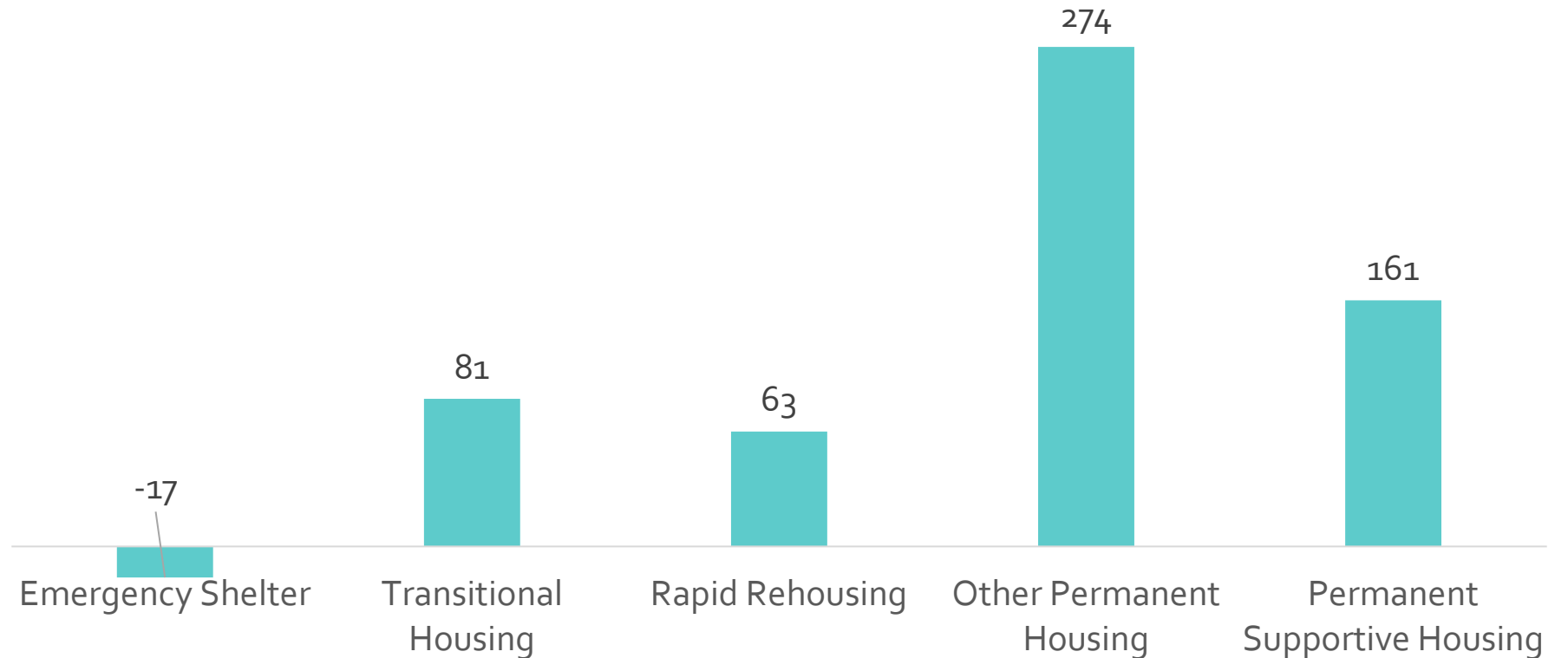
- 5% increase among unsheltered
- 2% among sheltered



# HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT

## Change in Available Number of Beds by Program Model HIC 2023

Increased total capacity by 562 beds since 2020



# DATA REPORTS

HUD data was submitted on 4/28/23

PIT 2023 data was presented at the COH on 5/4/23

Upcoming reports:

- 2023 PIT Infographic
- 2023 PIT StoryMap
- 2022 Annual Report

# WHAT IS AN INFOGRAPHIC?

**An infographic** is a visual communication meant to capture attention and enhance comprehension with data (pie charts and bar graphs) and minimal text that gives an easy-to-understand overview of a topic.

This would provide a snapshot of those identified during the count and can not include people who are at-risk.

## Topics to include:

- Total individuals/households
- Demographics
  - Race/ethnicity
  - HH type
  - Disabling conditions
  - Age
- Length of time homeless
- Unsheltered city data

# WHAT IS A STORYMAP?

**StoryMaps** are web-based maps that draw on the power of maps and geography to tell a story. May include other local data, images, and qualitative information.

This let's us start talking about social context of prevention before people hit the CoC

## Topics and Other Data to consider:

- Overlay unsheltered data with shelter and CARE Center resources
- Integrate with other health and social data in CoCo:
  - Housing affordability
  - Health indicators
  - Census tract income
- Include HIC to show capacity

# WHAT IS THE ANNUAL REPORT?

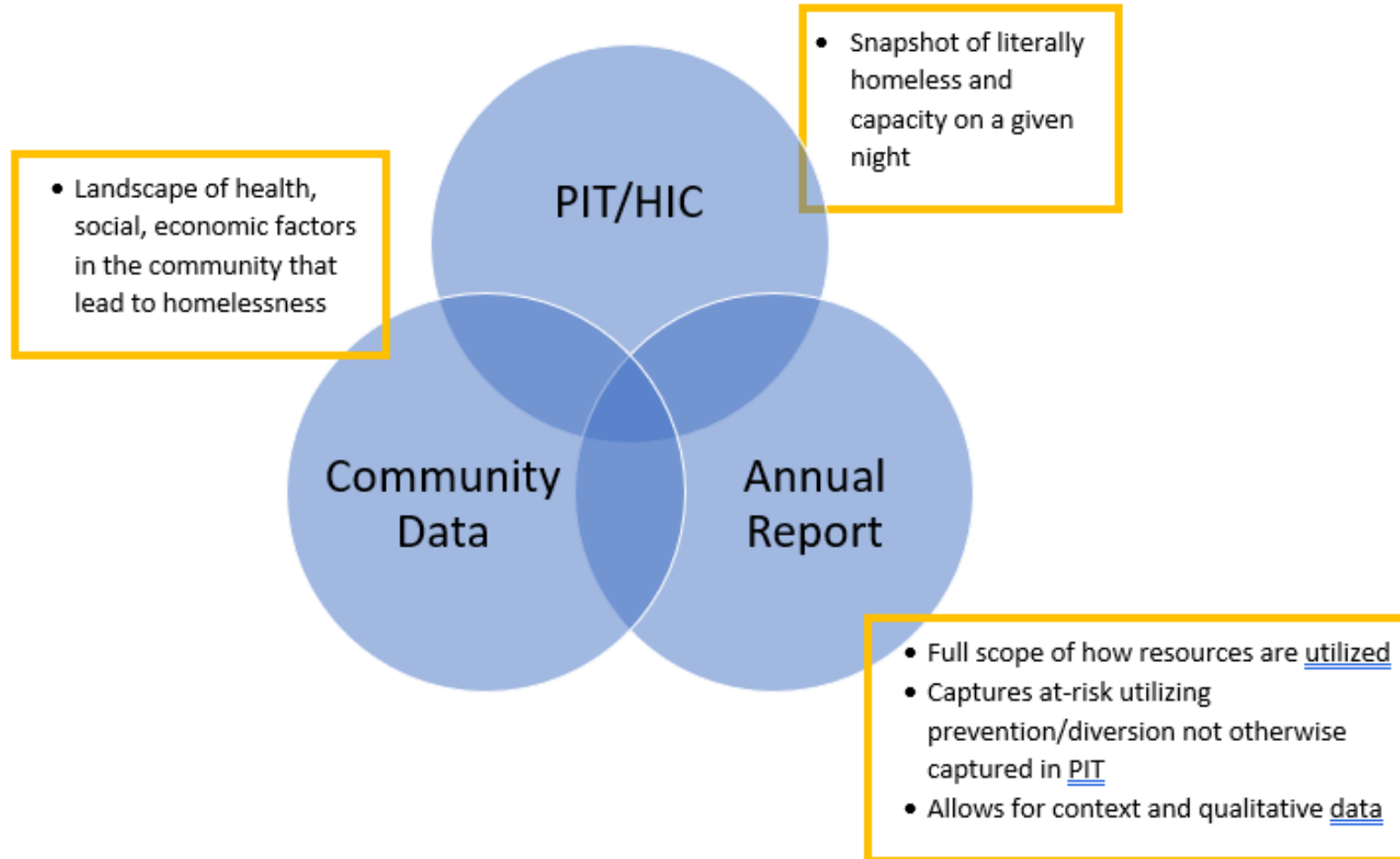
**Annual report** provides a fuller picture of people experiencing homelessness throughout the year; those at-risk, literally homeless, and housed in permanent housing programs.

## **Annual Report topics:**

- Demographics
- Program Utilization
- Outcomes
  - by race/ethnicity
  - by household type
  - by program model
- Can highlight successes and challenges
- Can include spending and resources



# THE FULL DATA PICTURE



# PATH COMMITTEE

How do we use the data to:

1. Understand unsheltered homelessness
2. Understand at-risk
3. Identify whether prevention/diversion is targeting the right audience (are these people who would have hit the unsheltered system of care if not for prevention/diversion and therefore reducing inflow)?

# PREVENTION LEARNING COHORT UPDATE

*Jo Bruno, Committee Member*

# PEER LEARNING CALL – APRIL 25, 2023

- All seven communities participated
  - Spokane City and County, WA
  - Eugene/Lane County, OR
  - Richmond/Contra Costa County, CA
  - Cincinnati/Hamilton County, OH
  - Charlotte/Mecklenburg County, NC
  - Greater Hartford, CT
  - Washington, District of Columbia

# PEER LEARNING CALL – APRIL 25, 2023

- Presentation from Jonathan Russell
  - Core elements of prevention systems
    - Shared vision, housing-focused access points, standardized tools and protocol, shared data, ongoing support
- Presentation from Sacramento Steps Forward
  - Housing problem solving strategy led by People with Lived Experience of homelessness
  - Train the trainer model on housing problem solving
  - Utilized HHAP funding to provide 42 hours of training, ongoing mentoring and supports, and management of program

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN OTHER COMMITTEES?

## Coordinated Prevention definition

Oversight – role to update and align program models to community definition

PATH – help develop community definition

## Equity Measures

Oversight – monitor progress in program models

Equity – thought partner to equity measures in program models, assess success of outreach materials

PATH – examine prevention models for inequities and identify targeting strategies

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN OTHER COMMITTEES?

Community outreach and education

Program Models

Equity Committee – help create new materials and identify new partners

PATH – bring new partners in to prevention work

Oversight – Make recommendations for revision to program models, monitor annual performance

Equity Committee – share feedback on program models based on learnings

PATH – share feedback on Prevention and Rapid Exit program models based on learnings

# PREVENTION AND COORDINATED ENTRY

*Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3*

*Lynna Magnuson, Caminar*



# PREVENTION: OVERVIEW

**Purpose:** To prevent a person at-risk of homelessness from becoming homeless, or to *divert* a person experiencing homelessness from entering the homeless response system

- **Housing Problem-Solving**

- Includes landlord/tenant mediation, information and referral, leveraging of a households natural supports



Goal: Housing Retention

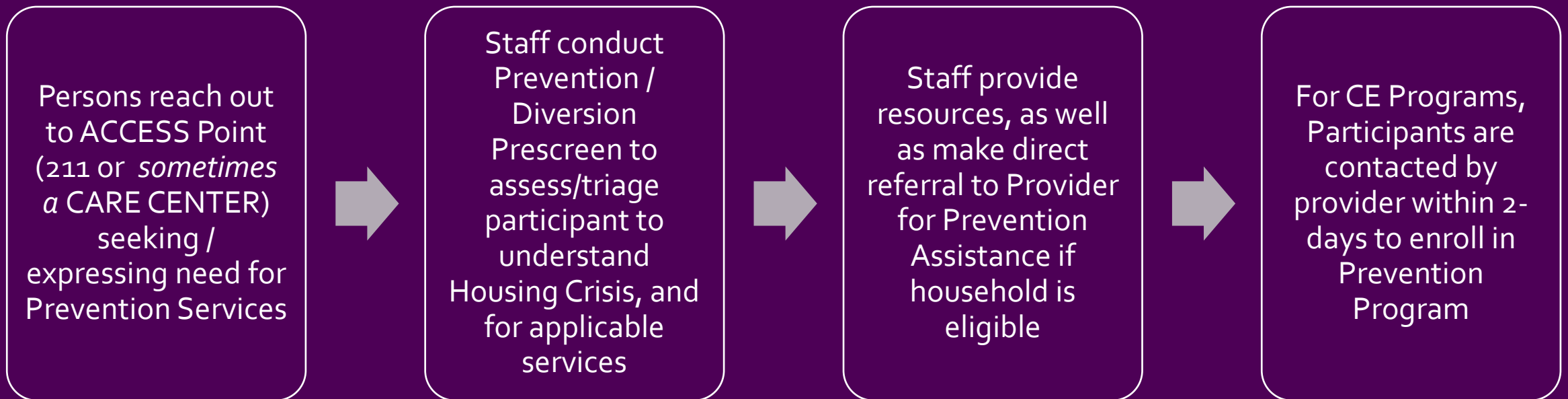
# PREVENTION: OVERVIEW

**Eligible Population:** Households who meet HUD's definition of "at-risk of homelessness"

**Financial Assistance:** \$3,000 for individuals, \$5,000 for families

- Rent Arrears
- Deposit
- First Month Rent
- Other costs associated with relocating to more stable housing

# PREVENTION: IMPLEMENTATION



# PREVENTION: POPULATIONS & ACCESS

## Through Coordinated Entry

- Generally not population specific; open to anyone meeting eligibility
- Accessed through CE ACCESS Points / 211

## Targeted Populations with Coordinated Entry as a Partner / Referral Mechanism

- CE Team acts as intermediary between other entities and providers, to support access to and implementation of population specific prevention programs
- Current Examples:
  - Families receiving CalWorks (HSP)
  - Child-Welfare involved families (BFH)
  - Probation (HIP)

## Resources Outside of Coordinated Entry, but still accessible

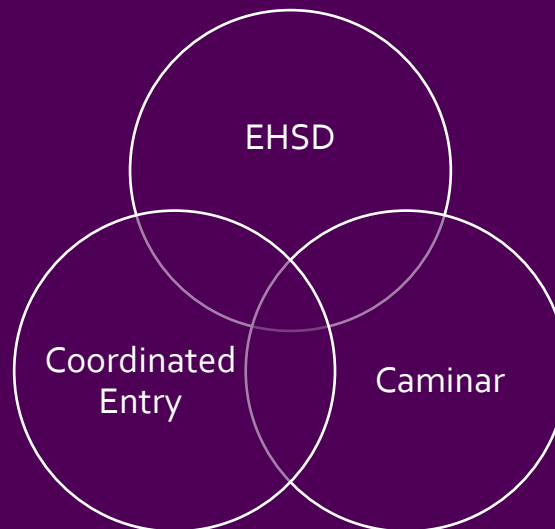
- Other population specific programs
- Adult Protective Services Programs
- SSVF (Veterans)
- Faith Based Organizations
- Note: 211 (ACCES Point) keeps up-to-date information on many prevention programs and offers as many / all possible resources to callers they believe may apply

## SPOTLIGHT: BRINGING FAMILIES HOME

- Example of a Program and other entity that partner with H3 / Coordinated Entry Team to provide Rapid Rehousing and Prevention Services to a *target population*
- **Target Population:** Child-Welfare Involved Families / Families with Open & Active case with Contra Costa Children and Family Services

## SPOTLIGHT: BRINGING FAMILIES HOME

- Bringing Families Home is a partnership between EHSD, H<sub>3</sub> and Caminar where Caminar provides homelessness prevention and diversion, as well as rapid re-housing, to prevent participant family homelessness and reduce the occurrence of foster care placement



# HOW IS BRINGING FAMILIES HOME FUNDED?

California Department of Social Services

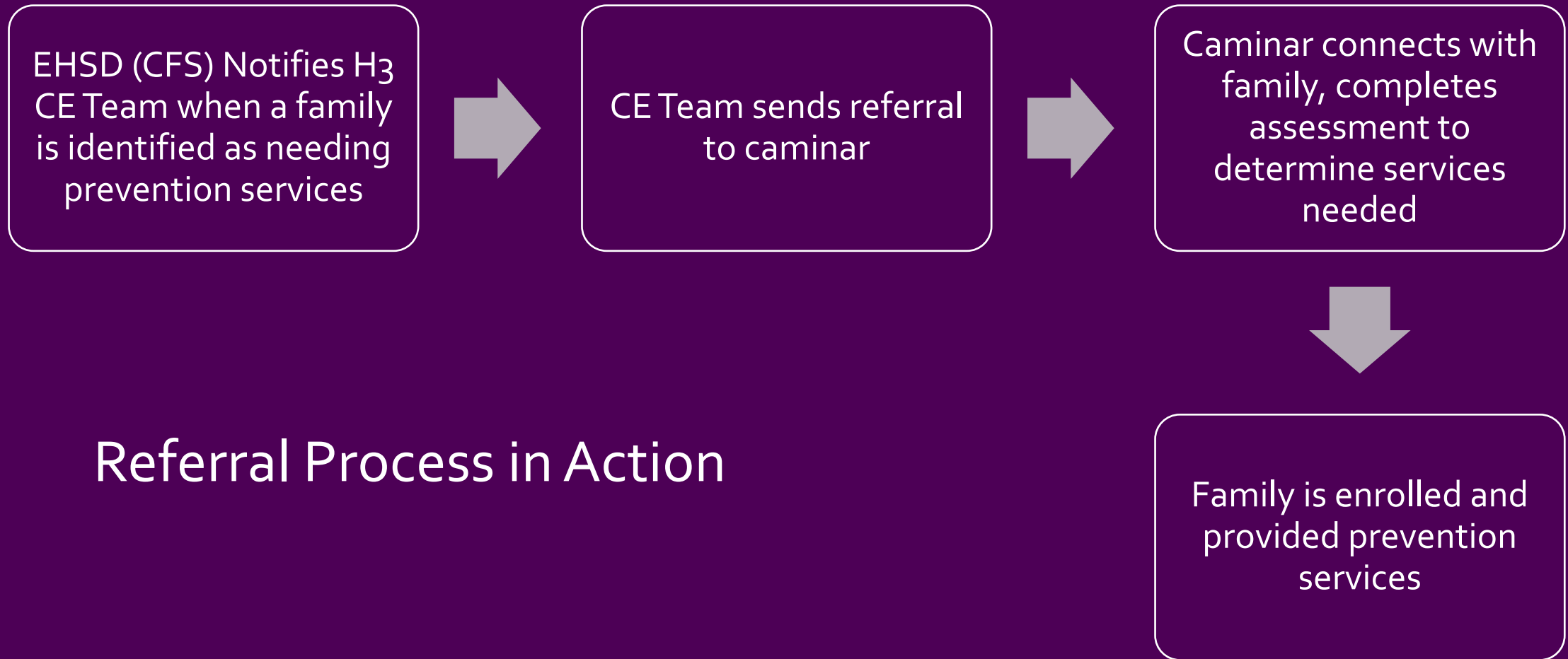
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graph TD; A[California Department of Social Services] --> B[Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services]; B --> C[Contra Costa County H3 Program]; C --> D[CAMINAR];
```

Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services

Contra Costa County H3 Program

CAMINAR

# BFH REFERRAL PROCESS



## Referral Process in Action



# SERVICE OVERVIEW

Homelessness Prevention/Diversion keeps referred Bringing Families Home (BFH) families from experiencing literal homelessness for the first time or returning to it after being permanently housed. Referred families will receive:

- Housing Problem Solving used to stabilize existing housing
- Financial assistance can help with utility or rent arrears, first month's rent or deposit, other costs associated with relocating to more stable housing and/or other expenditures to help household stay in current housing, such as food vouchers or repairs.

Holding a lease is not a requirement for homelessness prevention financial assistance.

There will always be attempts made to secure commitment from landlord not to pursue eviction/canceling of the lease after payment.

# SPECIAL RULES

- Participants enrolled in Homelessness Prevention/Diversion can be co-enrolled with PSH and RRH
- Participants should not be co-enrolled in programs that require participants to be literally homeless, CORE, CARE, Emergency Shelter, and Rapid Exit.
- Participants are exited from Homeless Prevention/Diversion after the 30-day, post-housing stabilization follow up contact has occurred. Households exited from this model are typically exited from the system of care.

# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Eligibility expands beyond HUD definition to account for living situations that cannot accommodate a child

# QUESTIONS

- New Provider: Lynna Magnuson, CAMINAR
- Or
- Coordinated Entry Manager: Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald

PREVIEW:  
PREVENTION &  
RAPID EXIT  
PROGRAM MODEL  
REVIEW

*Shelby Ferguson, H3*

# PREVENTION & RAPID EXIT PROGRAM MODELS

- **Role of PATH Committee**: share feedback on Prevention and Rapid Exit program models based on learnings
  - **Prevention definition**: does it align with shared definition determined in Prevention cohort?
  - **Prevention Standard Assessment & Prioritization Tool**
  - **Housing Problem Solving (Prevention & Rapid Exit)**: training and involvement from people with lived experience (PWLE)

Link to the models: [Program-Models.pdf \(cchealth.org\)](#)

# PREVENTION PROGRAM MODEL

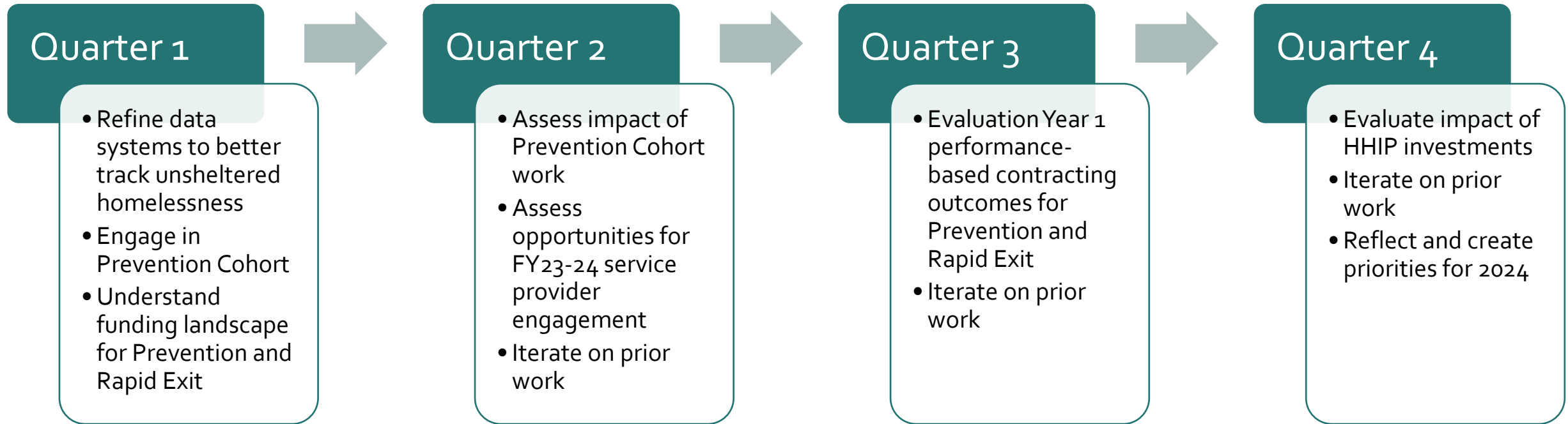
- **Purpose**: To keep people from experiencing literal homelessness for the **first time or returning** to it after being permanently housed.
- **Eligible Population and Prioritization**: Eligible households meet HUD's definition of "at-risk of homelessness" in 24 CFR 576.2. Assistance will be prioritized for those most likely to become homeless according to **research-based criteria**, which includes prior experience of homelessness. The prevention model includes the adoption of a **standard assessment tool**.
- **Required Elements**: Those that meet the criteria for the most at risk are supported with **Housing Problem Solving** and, if needed, financial assistance to avoid time in Emergency Shelter or unsheltered homelessness. Homelessness prevention is provided based on need rather than proof of sustainability post assistance.

# NEXT STEPS

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*



# 2023 ROADMAP



# UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- June 15, 2023
- July 20, 2023
- August 17, 2023



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES

**DATE:** Thursday, April 20th, 2023, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

**RECORDING OF MEETING:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/g9iyGeNSaex9M0mGgUBhwaaoMFEJ13nedMCsY0g1wYiTNTxrTFWCfyq2Y\\_K2Uo\\_3.eg4ojTAYfkD8XMGM](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/g9iyGeNSaex9M0mGgUBhwaaoMFEJ13nedMCsY0g1wYiTNTxrTFWCfyq2Y_K2Uo_3.eg4ojTAYfkD8XMGM)

**PASSCODE:**

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Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
9:00	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b>Hybrid Meeting Norms</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b>Public Comment</b> – Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.	- <i>Members of the public</i>
9:20	<b>Accountability Corner</b> – Review progress on Committee’s 2023 workplan	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i> - <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i>
9:35	<b>PIT Count Update</b> – Update on timeline for PIT results	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i>
9:40	<b>Unsheltered Dashboard</b> – Review of latest data on unsheltered homelessness	- <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i>
10:00	<b>System Performance Measures</b> – Report out on HUD system performance measures for 2021-22	- <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i>
10:40	<b>Prevention Learning Cohort Update</b> – Update on status of Prevention Learning Cohort work with Community Solutions	- <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i> - <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i>
10:45	<b>Announcements</b>	- <i>All</i>
10:50	<b>Next Steps</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee members in attendance: Juno Hendrick, Deanne Pearn, Tony Ucciferri, Iman Novin, Wayne Earl, Jo Bruno, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Keva Dean

Staff and consultants: Jamie Schecter (H3), Emily Downey (H3), Shelby Ferguson (H3), Dana Ewing (H3), Caroline Miller (H3), Mary Fitzgerald (H3), Matt Mitchell (FS), Matt Lemon (FS)

Additional Attendees: Stephanie Stovall (CCHS), Valerie Price, Janel Fletcher (SHELTER, Inc), Jazmin Ridley

## **Hybrid Meeting Norms**

Jamie Schecter described several norms for hybrid meetings including a recommendation to wear masks in person, practicing social distancing, raising your hand, saying your name before speaking, and maintaining a safe and respectful environment. Jamie noted that any individual who behaves in a manner that threatens the safety of the group or does not honor meeting norms may be asked to leave.

## **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Tony Ucciferri made a motion to approve the minutes from March 16<sup>th</sup>. Jo Bruno seconded the motion. Jo Bruno commented that she appreciates putting the minutes at the beginning of the meeting packet. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

## **Accountability Corner**

Matt Mitchell reviewed the workplan for Quarter 1 including goals and activities related to refining data systems to track unsheltered homelessness, engaging in the Built for Zero Prevention Learning Cohort, and better understanding the funding landscape for prevention and rapid exit. He noted that several activities were accomplished while understanding the funding landscape for rapid exit and reviewing PIT findings to understand impact on PATH data tracking were not accomplished.

Jo Bruno asked if the Committee would look at rapid exit in the same way they looked at prevention. Jamie Schecter noted that they are similar services, but slightly different populations and Committee members should decide whether there is space and capacity to learn about both. Committee members asked some clarifying questions about rapid exit eligibility and discussed topics they may want to learn more about, including housing solutions. Matt Mitchell noted that the Committee did decide to focus on



## PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

prevention and rapid exit and that there will be time in the future to discuss what the Committee would like to focus on next year.

Matt Mitchell reviewed some new needs that were identified over the last quarter including more qualitative data collection and tying metrics to what is happening on the ground. Jo Bruno stated that it sounds like there are bridges that need to be built before being able to tie metrics to what is happening. The Committee discussed concerns and questions related to qualitative data including service bottlenecks that may limit the ability to collect the data. Staff from H3 stated they are trying to make sure that more resources can support these activities and noted that they will be implementing a feedback survey in July.

Committee members discussed other opportunities to receive, review, and integrate both quantitative and qualitative data including quarterly and annual reports. Dana Ewing noted that H3 may be able to look at opportunities to pull various pieces of data into one document to better understand the whole scope and see what is missing. Matt Mitchell noted that the Committee will be looking at the first round of performance-based contracting in Quarter 3 and that may be a good opportunity to pull some of the data together at the system level. Keva Dean noted that while quantitative data is important, qualitative data is the story of how folks got here and what they need and is important for strategic planning.

Matt Mitchell reviewed the goals for Quarter 2 including assessing the impact of the Built for Zero Prevention Learning Cohort, assessing opportunities for FY23-24 service provider engagement, and iterating on improvement work from Quarter 1.

### **PIT Count Update**

Jamie Schecter reviewed an overview of and next steps for the PIT and HIC counts and noted that HUD released a submission data of April 28, 2023. The PIT and HIC will reflect data on unsheltered, sheltered, and housed populations as of January 24, 2023. She noted that the PIT will include data broken down by several demographics and characteristics, while the HIC will include data on the number of housing projects, number of beds, occupancy, and more.

H3 will share data from the counts at the next Council on Homelessness meeting on May 4, 2023, and plan to release detailed reports including city level data, trend analyses, and survey responses in Summer 2023.

Jamie described the difference between the PIT count and the unsheltered dashboard. She noted that the PIT count is a federally mandated, single point in time effort but has known limitations. She stated the dashboard was developed by H3 and is refreshed regularly but is only as good as the quality of data entered into HMIS.



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

## **Unsheltered Dashboard**

Dana Ewing presented data from the unsheltered dashboard for the period from October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. The data included the number of households experiencing unsheltered homelessness; average length of time sheltered and unsheltered; households experiencing unsheltered homelessness for the first time, and the number of households experiencing various pathways between unsheltered, sheltered, and housed status.

Committee members discussed the type of data available including questions about whether rapid rehousing is included and how community context such as encampment closures and new units opening can be captured. Dana Ewing noted that H3 can look at rapid rehousing data. Jamie Schechter noted community context can be difficult to include at a dashboard level because we do not know correlation versus causation.

Dana Ewing presented additional details on race and ethnicity, exits, and length of time unsheltered. Keva Dean asked if the data on exits can be separated into either shelter or permanent housing, rather than combined. H3 staff noted that this is possible, and that shelter is considered a positive outcome for this dashboard because it reduces the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Committee members discussed when length of time unsheltered starts, asked if data are available on average wait for shelter, and discussed factors that may impact self-reported unsheltered homelessness status including stigma. Staff from H3 stated they are using the metrics they currently have, which are consistent and help to identify trends, and that qualitative data would help add context.

Dana Ewing recapped the data presented and described changes from the prior quarter and key takeaways including the low percentage of exits from unsheltered to shelter or permanent housing; the wide range in the number of days unsheltered across race and ethnicity; and an increase in the number of exits from shelter to housing, among others. Dana noted that some changes may be due in part to policy changes in shelters, new units coming online, and similar factors. Teri House asked if the takeaways are what we saw in the data or what we need to do going forward. Dana noted that the information was what we saw and now we need to think about what to do.

## **System Performance Measures**

Dana Ewing presented data for key system performance measures covering the period from October 1, 2021 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. She stated that the measures were established by HUD and are used at the federal level to determine funding and at the local level to identify trends, understand impact, and guide decision-making.



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Dana presented data on the length of time homeless, returns to homelessness, number of people experiencing homelessness, increase in income, first time homeless, and positive outcomes. She noted that a measure of homeless prevention was not available for the Contra Costs CoC.

Committee members discussed data related to returns to homelessness. Jo Bruno asked if there was a way we gather qualitative data and stories from in relation to who returns. Shawn Ray asked if the qualitative data would accurately reflect the population of those who return. Dana Ewing noted that these measures allow us to ask questions that can then be examined separately in HMIS data. Keva Dean asked about definition of permanent housing and the types of situations that encompasses. Dana Ewing noted that many folks may return from situations they thought were permanent but that did not work out.

Keva Dean asked what is included in non-cash income. Jamie Schechter stated that it includes benefit programs like WIC and CalWorks and noted that the measure is limited and only looks at certain types of programs.

Committee members discussed the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time including whether this metric is in line with the dashboard on new enrollments and factors that may be influencing the results including extreme weather, catastrophic events, removal of emergency shelter time limits, substance abuse, and mental health. Wayne Earl stated he would like to know more about changing demographics for the population in shelters. Shawn Ray stated the Committee should be open to information on factors that may be affecting inflow into homelessness including mental health and substance use. Jamie Schechter noted that there have been recent meetings about harm reduction and that there is funding coming through for supportive housing.

Dana Ewing noted that more than half of people in the system are entering for the first time but many have often experienced homelessness for a long time before entering any system of care. Keva Dean stated that we understand that the longer someone has been in a situation will affect how long it will take to exit. She noted that we need to get a clear picture to help each person and think about every factor.

Committee members discussed successful outcomes including whether remaining in a permanent housing unit counts as a success, low rates of exit from street outreach, and self-resolution. H3 staff noted that data quality around exits can be challenging and that they are often not able to capture data related to self-resolution.



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## **Prevention Learning Cohort Update**

Dana Ewing provided an update on activities related to the Prevention Learning Cohort. She noted H3 have been working with Community Solutions and recently completed a tool to investigate inflow data. The H3 team met with Community Solutions in April 2023 to review prevention analytics and the tool. Dana noted that Community Solutions highlighted H3's ability to measure and describe data by subgroups and said that Contra Costa is ahead of many other communities in analytics. Community Solutions is interested in looking at zip code level data and prevention inflow types comparing people who are new to the system versus those returning.

Dana Ewing noted that people entering prevention programs are demographically different compared to the unsheltered population and thus conversations about prevention may want to include targeting. She stated that if the goal is to reduce unsheltered homelessness, then prevention services could be targeted so they served people who may eventually become unsheltered. Wayne Earl stated he would like to know more about the demographic differences.

Jamie Schecter noted that some funding sources require focusing on specific time frames or populations like families and that a new RFP will potentially allow for the ability to target services differently. Shawn Ray stated we should be careful with targeting and that it should be addressed in a way that does not exclude anyone. Tony Ucciferri noted that some of the data may be impacted by cultural context. Keva Dean stated that she does not see addressing targeted groups that experience homelessness at a disproportionate rate as preferential treatment. Jamie Schecter stated that this is why they review data and think about the system in terms of equity.

Dana Ewing noted that H3 will be engaging with a national cohort with Community Solutions soon.

## **Next Steps**

Matt Mitchell stated that the next Committee meeting is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.