PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

DATE: Thursday, June 15th, 2023, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

LOCATION:
2120 Diamond Blvd, Concord – McMorrow 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

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	**Welcome and Introductions**	- *Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*
	Hybrid Meeting Norms	- *Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*
	Review and Approval of Minutes	- *Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*
	Public Comment – Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.	- *Members of the public*
9:25	**Prevention Learning Cohort Progress Update** – Update from Community Solutions and discussion of prevention definition	- *Community Solutions* - *Shelby Ferguson, H3*
9:50	**Measure X (and other funding sources) RFP Awards** – Overview of recommendations, new providers, and funding source details	- *Shelby Ferguson, H3*
10:05	**Provider Spotlight: HomeSafe** – Overview of a targeted prevention and rapid rehousing program for older adults or adults with disabilities	- *Daisy Gallegos, Contra Costa Employment and Human Services, Adult Protective Services*
10:30	**Update on Point-In-Time Count Reporting** – Discussion on 2023 PIT Count infographic	- *Dana Ewing, H3*
10:45	**Announcements**	- *All*
10:50	**Next Steps**	- *Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

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 or call 925-608-6700
Public comments may also be submitted before the meeting by email at 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

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

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

Contra Costa County COVID-19 Resources:
Please see below for additional resources on COVID-19.
Health Services COVID Data Dashboard- https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/dashboard
Health Services Homeless Specific Data Dashboard- https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/homeless-dashboard
Health Services COVID Updates- https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/health-services-updates
*Health Services Homeless-Specific COVID Resources -*https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-the-homeless

Contra Costa Continuum of Care

PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE

June 15, 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

Deanne Pearn

Iman Novin

Jo Bruno

Juno Hedrick

Shawn Ray

Teri House

Tony Ucciferri

Wayne Earl

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

INTRODUCTIONS

H3 Staff

Focus Strategies

Stakeholders

HYBRID MEETING NORMS

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

HYBRID MEETING NORMS

1. <u>Masking</u> is recommended but not required (masks are available)
2. <u>Social distancing</u> – red = please keep safe distance, green = ask first
3. <u>Raise your hand</u> (actual or virtual) before speaking
4. <u>Say your name and if you're a Committee member</u> before speaking
5. <u>2-minute timer</u> for public comments
6. Maintain a <u>safe and respectful</u> environment, even when disagreeing
7. <u>Make and take space</u> – consider your privilege and other voices who are in and not in the room
8. <u>Minimize distractions</u> like side conversations and cell phone use
9. <u>Food and drink</u> – 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 May 18, 2023, PATH Innovation Committee meeting.

| 1. Member makes a motion | 2. Second (every motion requires a second) | 3. Discussion | 4. Vote: Motion passes |

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

Open period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.
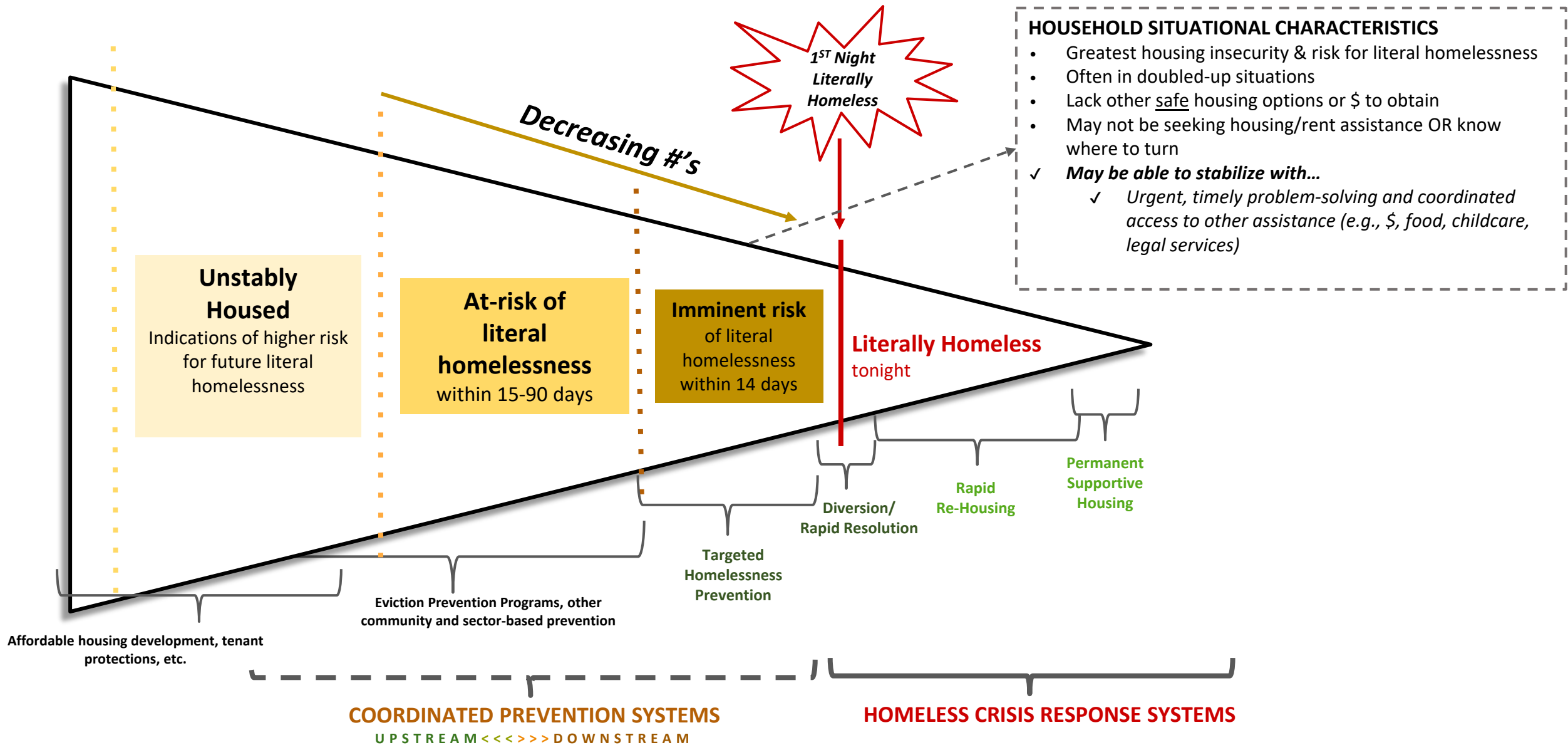
PREVENTION LEARNING COHORT PROGRESS UPDATE

Community Solutions

Shelby Ferguson, H3

Coordinated Prevention System FRAMEWORK

Contra Costa County
Continuum of Care

Community-Wide *Housing Stabilization* Approach

1ST Night Literally Homeless

HOUSEHOLD SITUATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS
- Greatest housing insecurity & risk for literal homelessness
- Often in doubled-up situations
- Lack other safe housing options or $ to obtain
- May not be seeking housing/rent assistance OR know where to turn
- ✓ *May be able to stabilize with…*
  - ✓ *Urgent, timely problem-solving and coordinated access to other assistance (e.g., $, food, childcare, legal services)*

Decreasing #'s

Unstably Housed
Indications of higher risk for future literal homelessness

At-risk of literal homelessness
within 15-90 days

Imminent risk
of literal homelessness within 14 days

Literally Homeless
tonight

Affordable housing development, tenant protections, etc.

Eviction Prevention Programs, other community and sector-based prevention

Targeted Homelessness Prevention

Diversion/ Rapid Resolution

Rapid Re-Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing

COORDINATED PREVENTION SYSTEMS
U P S T R E A M < < < > > > D O W N S T R E A M

HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEMS

Why have a Coordinated Prevention "Framework"?

- Memorializes our collective understanding of coordinated prevention principles, concepts, and approaches
- Helps to clarify where eviction prevention, homelessness prevention, and other resources fit
- Supports more equitable investment and targeting of resources to reduce racial and other inequities
- Facilitates alignment with cross sector partner efforts to address social determinants

Key Concepts

Homelessness Prevention

Homelessness prevention refers to policies, practices, and interventions that reduce the likelihood that someone will experience homelessness. It also means providing those who have been homeless with the necessary resources and support to stabilize their housing, enhance integration and social inclusion, and ultimately reduce the risk of the recurrence of homelessness.

Types of Homelessness Prevention (HP):

- *Primary*
- *Secondary*
- *Tertiary*

Stephen Gaetz & Erin Dej. (2017). A New Direction: A Framework for Homelessness Prevention. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

Key Concepts

Targeted Homelessness Prevention and Diversion are forms of secondary homelessness prevention that targets assistance to households at greatest risk for literal homelessness within a defined period of time (e.g., 14 days or less) and who lack other safe housing options and resources to avoid literal homelessness "but for" timely and individualized prevention assistance.

- *Targeted HP* relies on standardized risk and vulnerability screening to identify people most at-risk for literal homelessness. Homelessness Prevention and Diversion activities supported by the Contra Costa CoC are further defined in the **Contra Costa CoC Program Models** document.

- Homelessness Prevention activities funded under Federal **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)** and **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Programs** are targeted based on <u>federal eligibility requirements</u>.

Core Principles

Coordinated: Community-wide approaches to coordinate a wide variety of prevention assistance using common risk screening criteria to identify people who are housing insecure, including those who are at greatest risk for literal homelessness and in need of targeted prevention and homeless diversion assistance.

✓ **Full spectrum approach**

Effective: Prevention activities capable of helping someone reduce or eliminate their housing crisis, including stopping someone from becoming homeless. To be effective, activities should be easily found, accessed, and timely. Housing problem-solving, flexible financial assistance, and individualized housing search/stabilization supports are key features of effective prevention approaches.

Core Principles

Efficient: Prevention activities that seek to prevent literal homelessness must be well targeted, delivering effective activities to people who are very likely to become homeless unless they receive timely, individualized help, which may need to be intensive and offered by more specialized housing-focused staff.
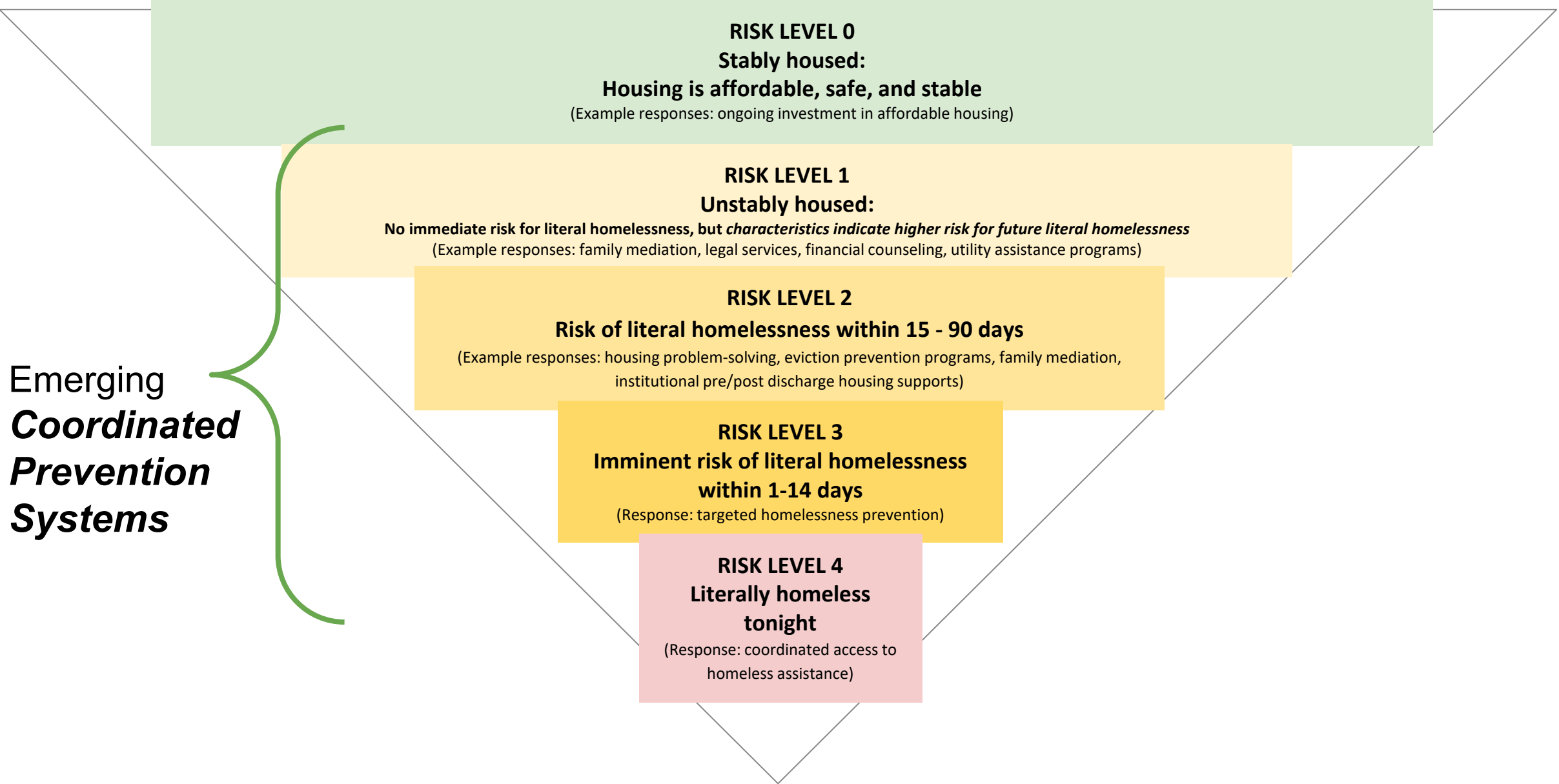
- ✓ **No wrong door**
- ✓ **Targeted and timely**

Equitable & Evidence-Based: All services should be rooted in evidence-based, data-informed research and prioritization that centers those most at-risk, delineates available services in ways that remove needless constraints and documentation barriers, and centers racial and other equity considerations using research-proven data proxies and indicators such as zip code targeting and systemic involvement, and is peer supported and led where possible.

Housing Insecurity: Definitions & Indicators

Based in part on federal at-risk definitions for HUD ESG and VA SSVF that identify people who are most at–risk based on their current circumstances and other empirically-based vulnerabilities, such as prior experiences of homelessness.

Housing Insecurity Scale

RISK LEVEL 0
Stably housed:
Housing is affordable, safe, and stable
(Example responses: ongoing investment in affordable housing)

RISK LEVEL 1
Unstably housed:
No immediate risk for literal homelessness, but *characteristics indicate higher risk for future literal homelessness*
(Example responses: family mediation, legal services, financial counseling, utility assistance programs)

RISK LEVEL 2
Risk of literal homelessness within 15 - 90 days
(Example responses: housing problem-solving, eviction prevention programs, family mediation, institutional pre/post discharge housing supports)

RISK LEVEL 3
Imminent risk of literal homelessness within 1-14 days
(Response: targeted homelessness prevention)

RISK LEVEL 4
Literally homeless tonight
(Response: coordinated access to homeless assistance)

Emerging *Coordinated Prevention Systems*

Housing Insecurity Scale

	Risk Level	Living Situation	Housing Options & Resources
0	**Stably Housed**	• Current housing is safe; AND • Current housing is stable for the foreseeable future (e.g., sufficient income to pay rent and utilities, able to stay with host family/friend indefinitely)	Has housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay for *foreseeable* future.
1	**Unstably Housed**	• Current housing is safe; AND • No material risk of imminent risk of literal homelessness (i.e., not Risk Level 2-4); AND • Is currently experiencing general housing insecurity due to housing cost burden, housing conditions, frequent unplanned moves, and/or other characteristics and barriers indicative of higher risk for future literal homelessness. May be at-risk of housing loss in 3-6 months.	Has housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay for *foreseeable* future.
2	**At-Risk of Literal Homelessness (within 15-90 Days)**	• Current housing is safe; AND • Must leave current housing within 15-90 days (e.g., due to court-ordered eviction, landlord-issued eviction, foreclosure, safety or health risk, host family/friend limitation, etc.); OR • Must leave an institution (e.g., hospital, jail, treatment facility) within 15-90 days;	Does not have other housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay *after* the next 15-90 days.
3	**Imminent Risk of Literal Homelessness (within 1-14 Days)**	• Current housing is safe; AND • Must leave current housing within 14 days (e.g., due to court-ordered eviction, foreclosure, imminent safety or health risk, host family/friend request to leave, family conflict, etc.); OR • Must leave an institution (e.g., hospital, jail, treatment facility) within 14 days;	Does not have other housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay after the next 14 days.
4	**Literally Homeless Tonight**	• Is currently literally homeless and continues to have no other safe housing option tonight outside of available emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing options; OR • Must leave current housing today (e.g., due to court-ordered eviction, foreclosure, immediate safety or health risk, host family/friend request to leave, etc.); OR • Must leave an institution (e.g., hospital, jail, treatment facility) today.	Does not have other housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay tonight

COORDINATED HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SYSTEMS:

Core Elements

1. **Shared Vision, Understanding & Commitment to Prevention** related to literal homelessness

2. **Coordinated, Housing-Focused Access Points & Service Providers** across a wide variety of "upstream" community-based and cross-sector settings

3. **Standardized Housing Insecurity Screening, Response, and Referral Tools and Protocols** including broad use of housing problem-solving and coordinated access prioritization approaches

4. **Shared Data Culture & Platform** supporting data collection, service referral and coordination, and reporting

5. **Ongoing Backbone Entity Support** for partner recruitment, training, reporting, analysis, and ongoing system management & development

MEASURE X
(AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES)
RFP AWARDS

Shelby Ferguson, H3

BACKGROUND

- Recommendations approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 13, 2023

- Includes multiple funding sources in addition to Measure X

  - Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program

  - CalWORKS

  - Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program

  - Coordinated Entry

TARGETED PREVENTION

-Transition Aged Youth ages 18-24

-Families with minor children

-Imminent risk (within 14 days of losing housing)

DOLLARS TO OUTCOMES

- $3.96 million recommended in Prevention/Diversion and Rapid Exit funding

- Includes awards to 5 non-profits

- About $1 million in legal services

DOLLARS TO OUTCOMES

-In general, Direct Financial Assistance is expected to be about 60% of each award

-At $5,000 per household, we could expect to serve about 350 with DFA with this funding

-Each provider will have measurable outcomes built into their service plan

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: HOMESAFE

Daisy Gallegos, Contra Costa Employment and Human Services - Adult Protective Services

SERVICES OVERVIEW - ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS)

- Adult Protective Services (APS) are provided to reduce or prevent danger to elder and dependent adults who are at risk of abuse or neglect.

- When assigned a case, APS social workers:
  - Investigate reports
  - Cross report, if needed
  - Link clients to supportive services
    - Medical
    - Legal
    - In home support
    - Meals
    - Clean-up services
    - Housing (Home Safe)
    - Ect.

SPOTLIGHT: HOMESAFE

- Example of a Program and other entity that partner with H3 to provide housing stabilization and Prevention Services to a *targeted population*

- **Target Population**: Elder and dependent adults that are either active Adult Protective Services (APS) clients or in the process of intake and are at-risk or experiencing homelessness
  - Elder: 60 and older
  - Dependent adult: 18-59 years old with physical or mental limitations and unable to perform activities of daily living (ADLs)

SPOTLIGHT: HOMESAFE

- HomeSafe is a partnership between Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services (EHSD), H3 and the HUME Center where the HUME Center provides homelessness prevention, as well as housing stabilization services, to prevent elder and dependent adults from entering our homeless system of care.

HOW HOMESAFE IS FUNDED

California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services (EHSD) – Adult Protective Services (APS)

Contra Costa Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3)

The HUME Center
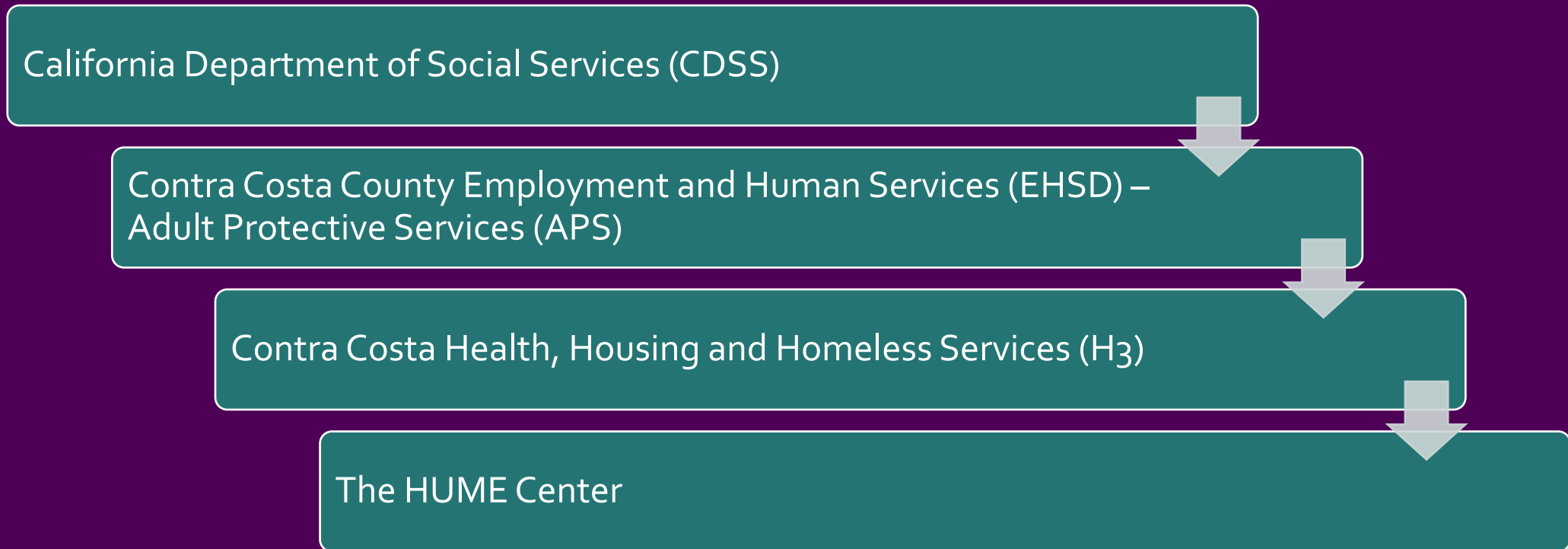
HOMESAFE REFERRAL PROCESS

APS Social Worker refers client to HomeSafe → APS Senior Staff Assistant reviews referral for approval → APS sends referral to Hume Center → Hume Center provides direct services
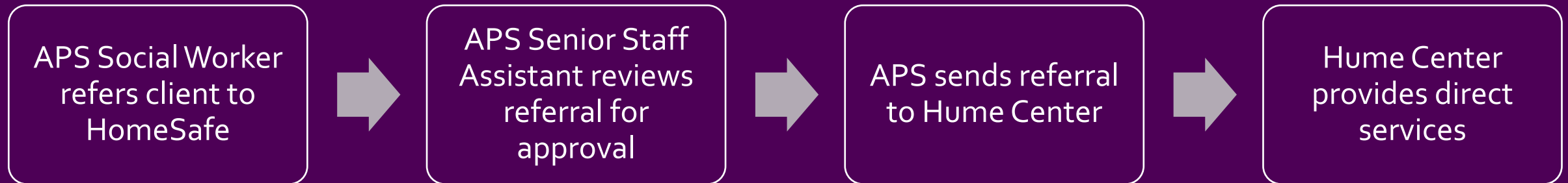
HOMESAFE ESSENTIAL PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Intensive Case Management

Housing Stabilization

Housing Navigation

Housing Direct Financial Assistance

Connections to Longer-Term Supports

UPDATE ON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT REPORTING

Dana Ewing, H3
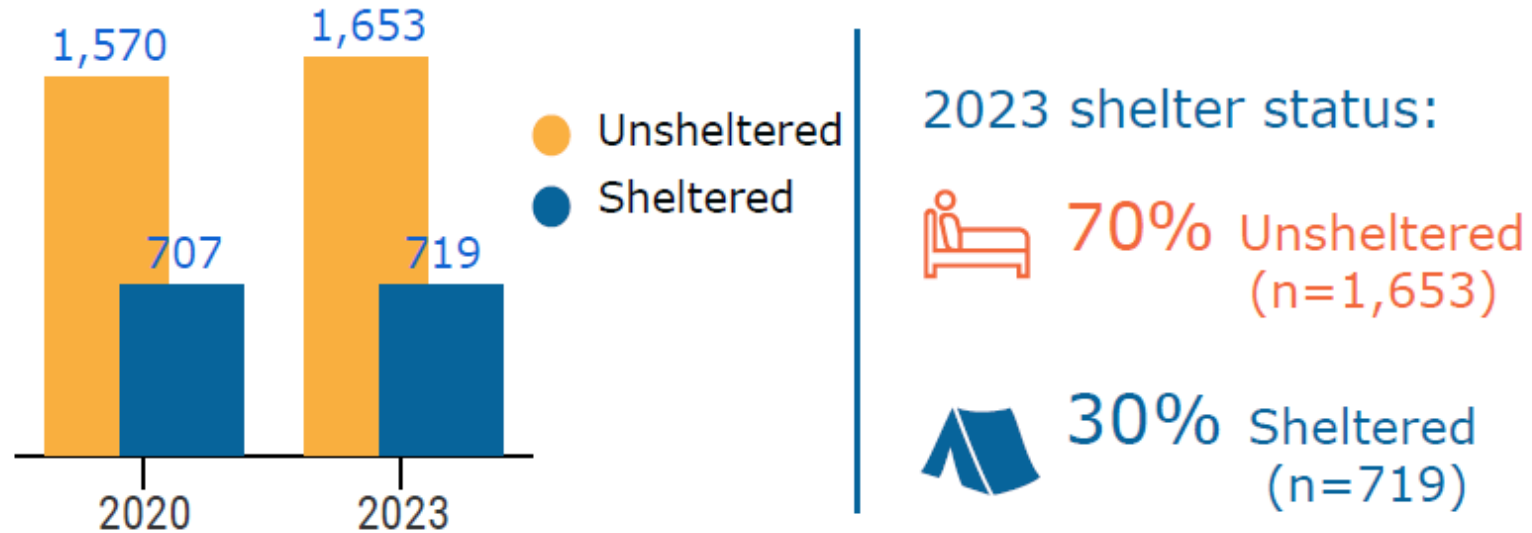
POINT IN TIME COUNT (PIT) TEASER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT STEPS

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

2023 ROADMAP

Quarter 1
- Refine data systems to better track unsheltered homelessness
- Engage in Prevention Cohort
- Understand funding landscape for Prevention and Rapid Exit

Quarter 2
- Assess impact of Prevention Cohort work
- Assess opportunities for FY23-24 service provider engagement
- Iterate on prior work

Quarter 3
- Evaluation Year 1 performance-based contracting outcomes for Prevention and Rapid Exit
- Iterate on prior work

Quarter 4
- Evaluate impact of HHIP investments
- Iterate on prior work
- Reflect and create priorities for 2024

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- July 20, 2023

- August 17, 2023

- September 21, 2023

PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

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

RECORDING OF MEETING:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EvtlU1OkRTIZiw30ROcPW-XLs3j1fO-do0-rRf8sVRWhFpWsCRGDstM6KMptWCie.PPvqjbMT6-LTjS7h

PASSCODE:
20zC@4ep

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

Welcome and Introductions

Committee Member in Attendance: Wayne Earl, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Jo Bruno, Tony Ucciferri, Iman Novin, Juno Hedrick

Staff and Consultants: Shelby Ferguson (H3), Mary Fitzgerald (H3), Caroline Miller (H3), Jamie Jenett (H3), Dana Ewing (H3), Matt Mitchell (FS), Matt Lemon (FS)

Additional Attendees: Shayne Kaleo (SHELTER, Inc.), Carl Mason (Hope Solutions), Lynna Magnuson (Caminar), Kalil Macklin (Anthem Blue Cross), Keva Dean (COH member)

Hybrid Meeting Norms

Matt Mitchell 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. Individuals who behavior 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

Teri House made a motion to approve the minutes from April 20th, 2023. Shawn Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

PIT Count/HIC Update

Dana Ewing presented results from the Point in Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) conducted on January 24th, 2023. There were 2,372 people experiencing homelessness on that day of whom 70% were unsheltered and 30% were sheltered. This represents a 4% increase compared to the 2020 count. There has also been an increase in total capacity of 562 beds since 2020.

The results were submitted to HUD on April 28th, 2023, and were presented to the Council on Homelessness. Upcoming reports that will use that data include a PIT infographic, PIT StoryMap, and annual report. Wayne Earl asked when HUD is expected to release the data to the public. Dana Ewing stated it will probably be later this year.

Committee members discussed the StoryMap and geographic analyses including plans to maintain the StoryMap over time and the usefulness of actionable, geographic data to inform services, planning, and

the impact of things like encampment closures. Teri House noted that Contra Costa is in the planning phases for a new consolidated plan and that city-level detail would be helpful. Dana Ewing noted the StoryMap is being created using one-time funding and that she will keep the Committee updated.

Wayne Earl noted that the Committee's charter is to reduce homelessness and thus the increase in the PIT county means we have missed our targets. Dana Ewing noted that the increase is compared to 2020 because data from the 2022 count could not be validated.

Committee members discussed the PIT count results and data challenges. Committee members noted that the 4% increase raises questions because there has been a noticeable increase in homelessness in the county and that service providers are seeing many more people. H3 staff stated that the PIT count is one source of data and there is also data available via HMIS. Committee members noted that it is useful to look at both data sources because the PIT count can be tracked over time and that many people who do not access services could be counted in the PIT count.

Wayne Earl asked about the impact of the PIT count on distributing HUD funding, particularly when the reality on the ground does not match the results of the count. Dana Ewing noted that HUD funding is between 10-25% of the budget and there are other state and local resources as well.

Dana Ewing provided details on what the infographic, StoryMap, and Annual Report will include. She noted the three reports combine to give a fuller picture of homelessness in the county and help understand unsheltered homelessness, the population at-risk of homelessness, and whether prevention/diversion is targeting the right audience.

Prevention Learning Cohort Update

Shelby Ferguson provided an update from a peer learning call with all seven communities on April 25th, 2023. The call included presentations by Jonathan Russell from BACS on the core elements of prevention and from Sacramento Steps Forward on a housing problem solving strategy led by people with lived experience, train the trainer models, and utilization of HHAP funding.

Next steps for the cohort include monthly internal meetings with Community Solutions and another peer call in June. The team is working on mapping by zip codes and implementing prevention on a larger scale. Teri House noted that zip codes can be challenging for jurisdictions to use as it can be difficult to break them down and determine what applies to specific geographic areas.

Shelby Ferguson noted that there is ongoing work in other committees related to the cohort work including a coordinated prevention definition, equity measures, community outreach and education, and program models. She provided ways that the PATH committee can support and contribute to the

work including examining models for inequities, bringing in new prevention partners, and sharing feedback.

Tony Ucciferri asked if the meetings are looking at a national strategy. Shelby Ferguson stated that Community Solutions has national data, but the team is looking at a strategy specifically for Contra Costa. Jo Bruno noted that the Built for Zero website helps explain more about the nationwide movement.

Shelby Ferguson noted that they have been working with Community Solutions since the fall and they expect to wrap up the first phase of work in July. The first phase will include definitions and may include a draft version of a tool. She noted there may be a second phase to the work, but that is still to be determined.

Prevention and Coordinated Entry

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald and Lynna Magnuson presented an overview of prevention connected to Coordinated Entry and an example of a prevention program operated by Caminar.

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald described the housing problem solving method in which financial assistance for things like rent arrears, first month's rent, and other cost is available in amounts of up to $3,000 for individuals and $5,000 for families, though the program often tries to braid together additional funding from other sources. She noted that the program uses HUD's definition for at risk of homelessness and outlined the process to access funding including access points, prescreening, and referrals/enrollments.

Wayne Earl asked why the HUD definition is used and noted that the definition is narrow and often does not cover people living in different types of situations including living with friends or in other situations in which they may not get formal notices of eviction. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald stated she shares that frustration, and that this criterion is for HUD funding only. There are other programs that H3 and 211 can connect folks to, such as programs that serve people who have received a 30-day notice. She noted that they want to have programs accessible to everyone and that one goal is to bring in more funding.

Committee members discussed financial assistance including whether funds go the person or to a landlord, the need to be able to support people who do not have official documentation or who are living in creative situations, and the types of costs the funds can cover. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald noted that funds typically go from the service provide directly to the landlord or other party. She noted that funds can cover other housing-related costs like moving assistance and that they try to make the program accessible to folks in various living situations by allowing different types of documentation such as a letter from a leaseholder.

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald described population targeting. She noted that CE programs are not population specific and are open to anyone who qualifies, while some program partners target specific populations including families receiving CalWorks, families involved with the child welfare system, and people who are on probation. Teri House noted that some cities fund prevention efforts which can be some of the braided fundings programs use. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald noted that it is very important for providers to keep the info that 211 has up to date to help people get connected to a resource that meets their needs.

Lynna Magnuson shared an overview of the Bringing Families Home program operated by Caminar for families involved with the child welfare system. She noted that the program is a partnership between the Employment and Human Services Department, H3, and Caminar and that funding flows from the California Department of Social Services to the county. She highlighted several flexible aspects of the program including the ability to access financial assistance without holding a lease, making attempts to secure commitments from landlords to not pursue eviction after receiving funding, and using a more expansive definition of homelessness that includes living situations that cannot safely accommodate children.

Lynna Magnuson stated that H3 does a good job with contracts, trainings, ramp up meetings, connecting with other providers, and more. She noted that the partnership is very client centered and that she is happy to be a provider in Contra Costa.

Preview: Prevention and Rapid Exit Program Models Review

Shelby Ferguson shared that H3 will want to get the Committee's feedback on prevention and rapid exit models including on the prevention definition, standard assessment and prioritization tool, and housing problem solving. She noted that the two programs are similar except for the population served, as prevention is for people at risk of homelessness and rapid exit is for people experiencing literal homelessness. Matt Mitchell noted that the Oversight Committee is responsible for updating and approving the program models, but the PATH Committee can bring insight and recommendations on making the models better. Shelby Ferguson noted that the Committee will be getting into these questions more over the next few months and there will likely be some content for discussion at the June meeting.

Teri House asked about the use of HUD and Measure X funding. Shelby Ferguson noted that the recommendation is to use both in part because Measure X has more flexibility. There will be a presentation on recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on May 22nd and materials should be posted online.

Committee members discussed various gaps and challenges with the program models including communicating with providers about the need and funding gap and the fact that some people may not know about calling 211.

Iman Novin stated that it would be helpful in future meetings to get more detail including the amount of HUD funding, how many people access the programs, which providers have contracts, and a breakdown of which providers offer rapid exit versus prevention. Teri House noted some of this information is available in the materials for the Board of Supervisors recommendations and in providers annual reports.

Iman Novin noted that while a majority of funding goes to landlords in the form of rent, many do not know about the program. Juno Hedrick noted that some landlords do not want to engage with the systems or have had bad experiences in the past. Juno Hedrick noted that housing navigators do an amazing job and that it is worth thinking about landlord outreach and education. Teri House stated that jurisdictions can be partners in this effort.

Announcements

Tony Ucciferri stated they are opening applications to the project-based voucher waitlist for five properties, including three for seniors and two for families.

Next Steps

Matt Mitchell noted that the Committee will be moving in to talking about evaluation and program models in Quarter 3. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15th, 2023.