



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

## AGENDA

**Date:** Thursday, June 16, 2022, 3 pm – 5 pm

**Location:** Join the meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85283780027?pwd=Q3Nld3RER1BINVN1bGVaRUtuM0pOQT09&from=addon>

**Call in information:**

1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 852 8378 0027

Passcode: 079714

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Review and Approval of Minutes</u></b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Public Comment</u></b> - Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.</li> </ul>	- <i>Members of the public</i>
3:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Prioritizing Work through December 2022</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review proposal from May 2022 meeting</li> <li>• <b>(ACTION ITEM):</b> Vote on priorities through December 2022</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i> - <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
3:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Understanding the Why: Causes of Homelessness</u></b></li> </ul>	- <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i>
4:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Next Steps</u></b></li> </ul>	- <i>All</i>
4:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Announcements</u></b></li> </ul>	- <i>All</i>

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: [chomelesscouncil@cchealth.org](mailto:chomelesscouncil@cchealth.org)



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION 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



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

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>*



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE

June 16, 2022, 3:00 – 5:00

# 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 30% in year one.*

# INTRODUCTIONS

PATH Innovations Committee Members

H3 Staff

Community Solutions

Homebase

Focus Strategies

Stakeholders

# REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

# ACTION ITEMS

- Review and approve minutes from the March 17, 2022 PATH Innovations Committee meeting.
- Review and approve minutes from the April 21, 2022 PATH Innovations Committee meeting.
- Review and approve minutes from the May 19, 2022 PATH Innovations Committee meeting.





# PUBLIC COMMENT

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

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

PROPOSED  
PRIORITIES THROUGH  
DECEMBER 2022

*Jamie Schechter, H3*

# PREPARING FOR A VOTE

- This is our **best thinking right now** on how to reduce unsheltered homelessness and improve CES
- Start somewhere, build momentum, and learn from our progress

## Timeline

- Develop work plans by July 2022
- Mid-point review in September 2022
- Assess progress in December 2022

# PROPOSED PRIORITIES

## **Build and strengthen the community networks around:**

- **Prevention:** assistance for community members at imminent risk of homelessness (within two weeks)
- **Rapid exit:** assistance for people experiencing literal homelessness with an identified housing solution

*Both bodies of work will focus on understanding the "why," incorporate evidence of what works, and foreground communication and training*

# ACTION ITEM

- Approve PATH Innovations Committee's priorities through December 2022.



# UNDERSTANDING THE "WHY": CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

*Dana Ewing, H3*

# CIRCLING BACK TO “WHY DO PEOPLE BECOME HOMELESS?”

Let's take a look :



Meta analyses



National data



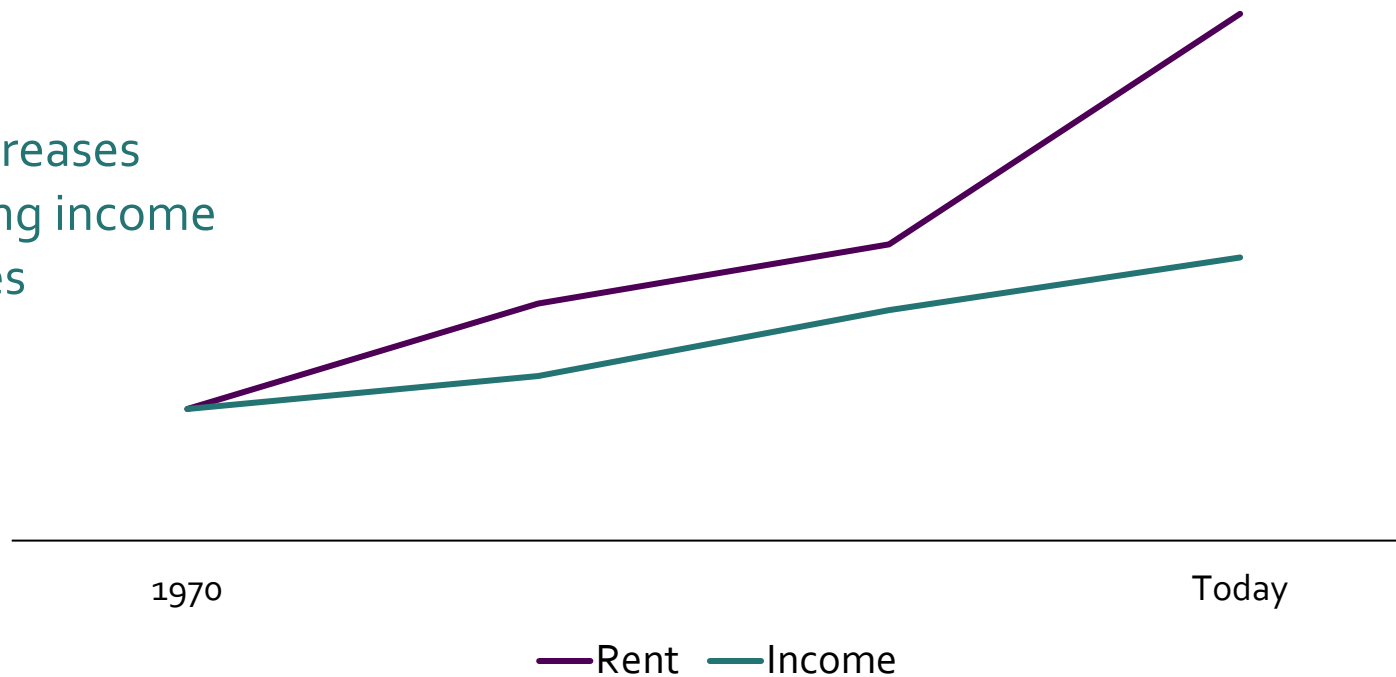
Contra Costa County data

# 1. HOUSING SHORTAGE

National Housing Crisis:

- ↓ housing availability, ↑ demand, ↑ rent

Rent increases  
outpacing income  
increases





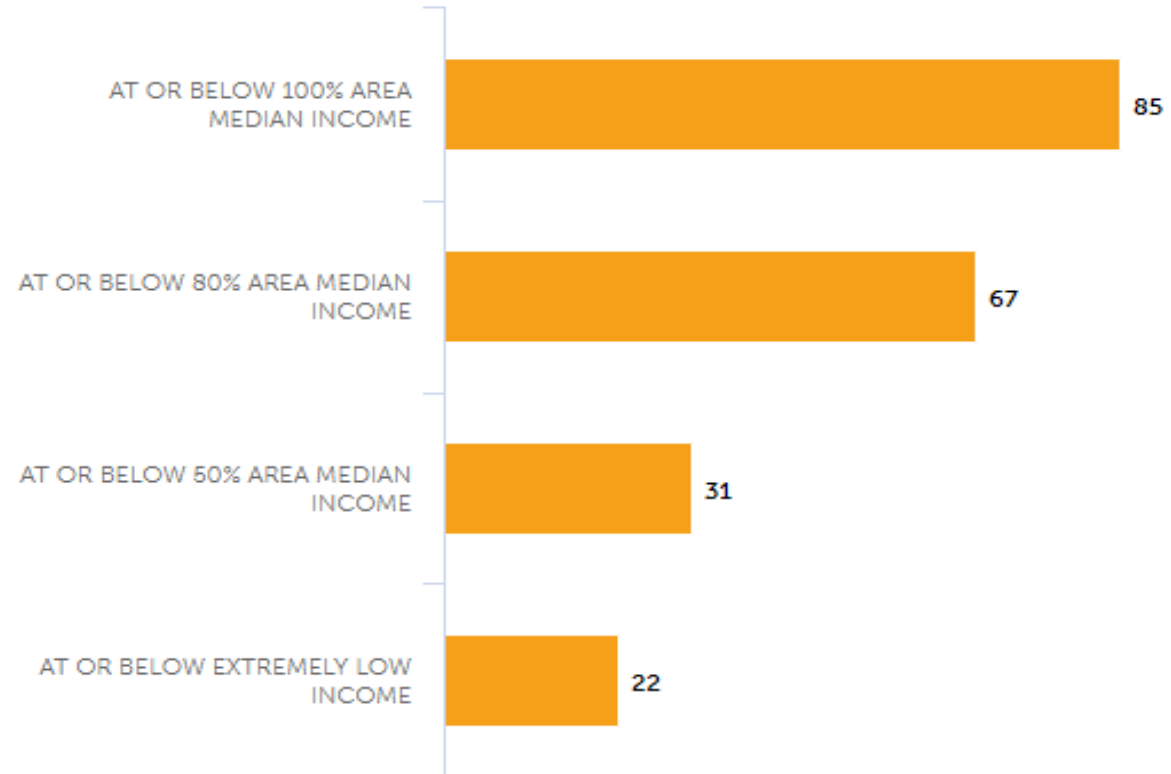
# 1. HOUSING SHORTAGE

National Low Income  
Housing Coalition,  
California Data

## Surplus (Deficit) of Affordable and Available Rental Units

AT OR BELOW EXTREMELY LOW INCOME	<b>-1,003,595</b>
AT OR BELOW 50% AMI	<b>-1,438,305</b>

## Affordable and Available Homes per 100 Renter Households



# 1. HOUSING SHORTAGE

Shortage of housing opportunities in the CoC

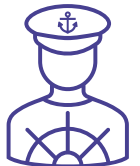
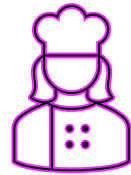
Number of households housed in **Rapid Rehousing** during 2021: 138

Number of households housed in **Permanent Supportive Housing** in 2021: 78

## 2. LOW INCOME

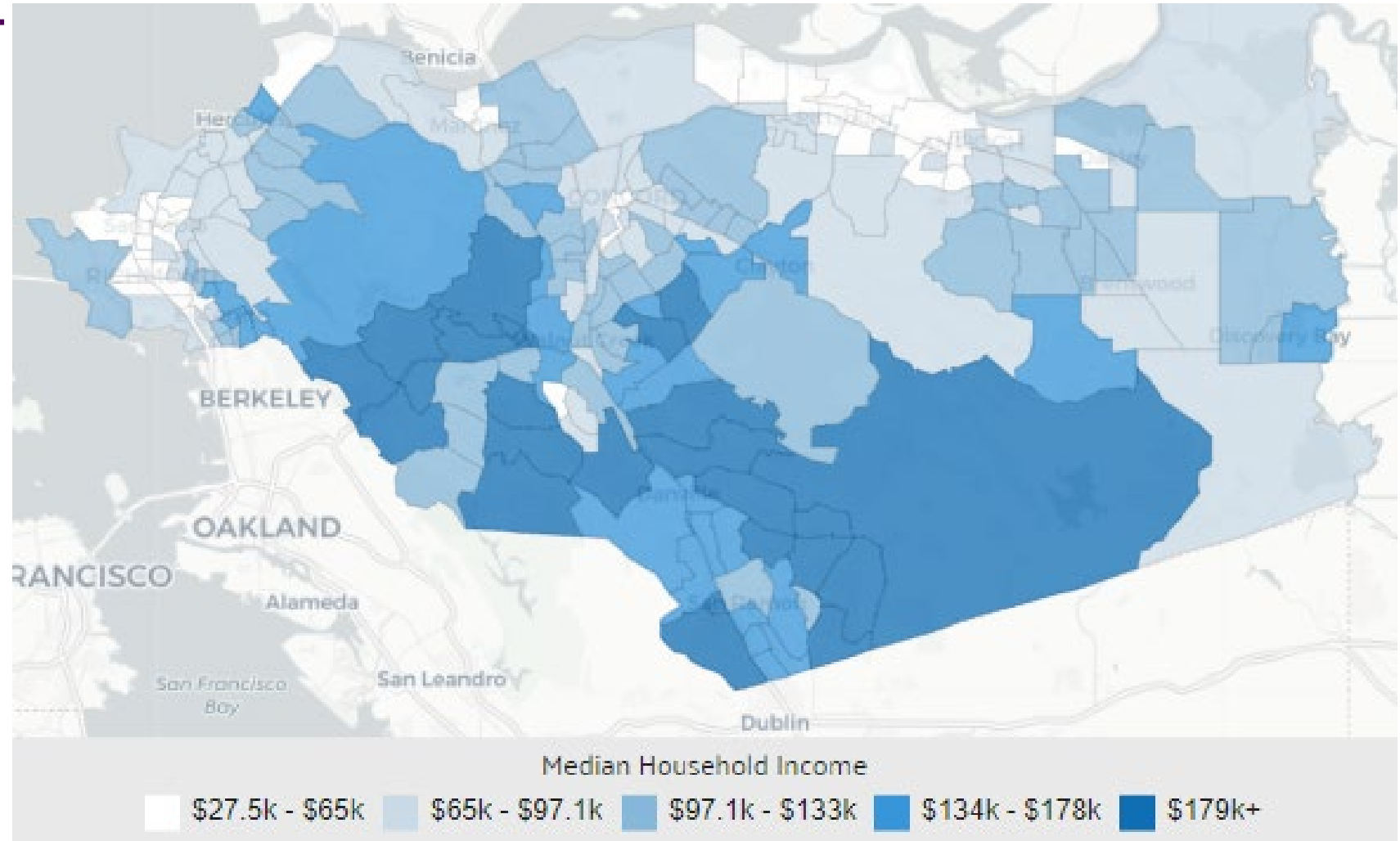
### Unemployment or underemployment

- age
- disability
- poor physical health
- mental health
- limited education
- criminal record
- transportation issues



## 2. LOW INCOME

Contra Costa County  
Census Data



## 3. HEALTH CONDITIONS

Physical and behavioral health

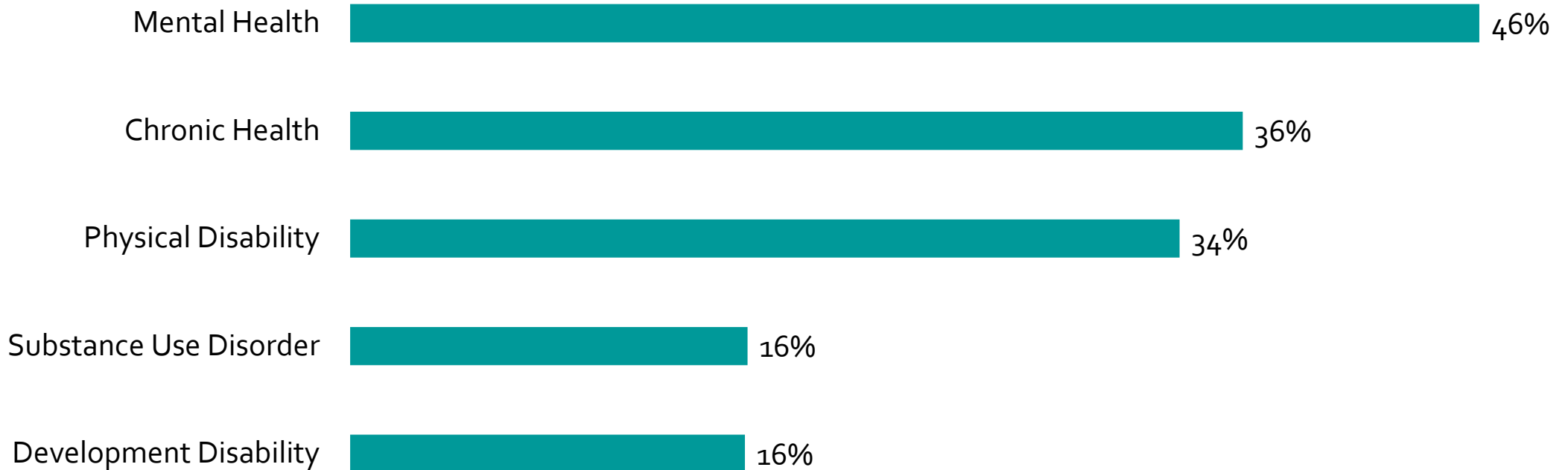
- 2x as likely to have a disabling condition
- 3x as likely to have a substance abuse disorder
- 3x as likely to have diabetes, heart disease, chronic health condition
- 6x as likely to have HIV/AIDS

Comorbidity—people experiencing homelessness likely to have both physical and mental health conditions

### 3. HEALTH CONDITIONS

Almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of people in the CoC had a disabling condition

Percent of Adults with Self-Reported Disabling Conditions



# 4. HISTORY OF TRAUMA

## Adverse Childhood Affects (ACES)

Family-level ACES*	Community-level ACES**
Emotional abuse	Economic hardship
Physical abuse	Community violence
Sexual abuse	Bullying
Emotional neglect	Foster care
Physical neglect	Discrimination (e.g. racism, homophobia, etc.)
Household domestic violence	
Household mental illness	
Household substance use	
Parental separation or divorce	
Having a parent or family member incarcerated	

\*Family-level ACEs: These are the ACEs from the 1998 Kaiser Permanente study that are sometimes referred to as conventional, original or traditional ACEs. These ACEs are experienced within the home or family.

\*\* Community-level ACEs: These are adversities experienced outside the home. They often refer to structural and social adversities.

## 4. HISTORY OF TRAUMA

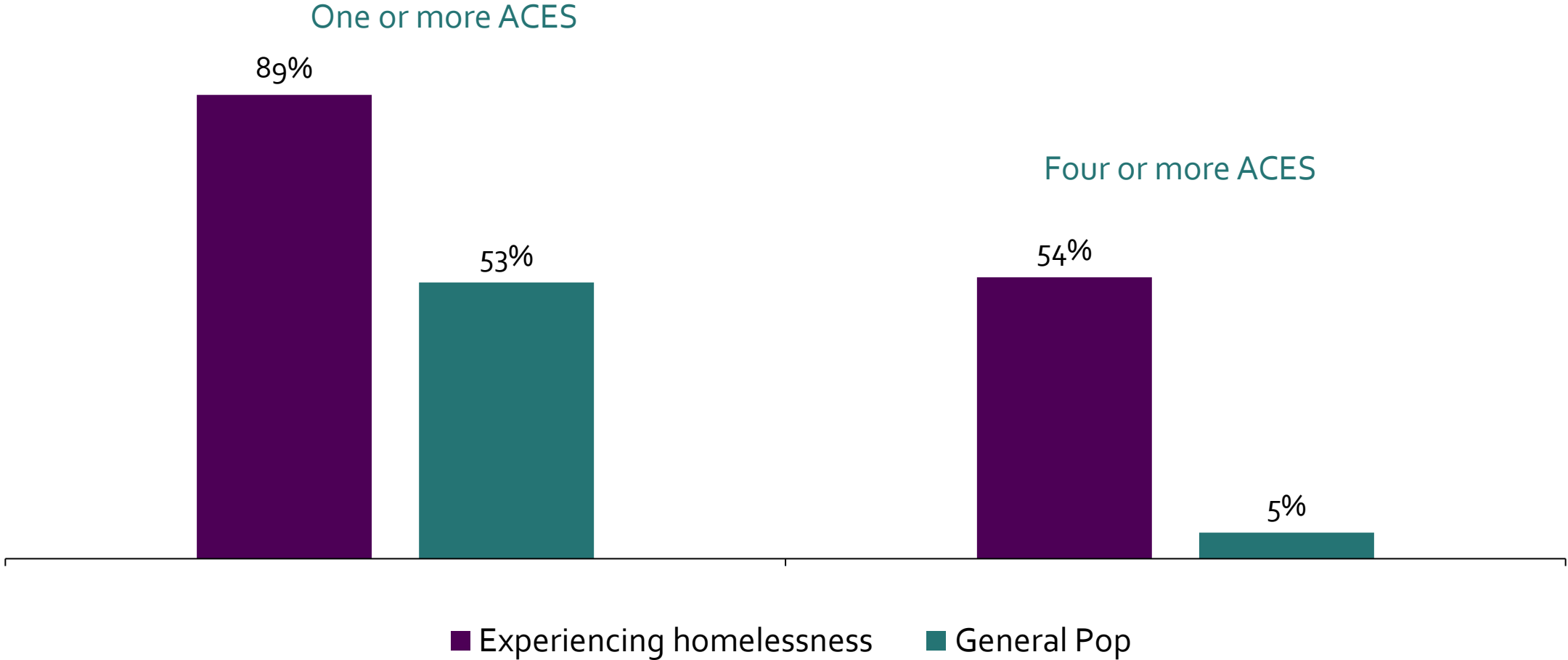
Nearly 80% of mothers experiencing homelessness had significant histories of childhood trauma

Having 4 or more ACEs increased likelihood of:

- Anxiety, depression
- Development delays
- School non-completion
- Unemployment
- Poor health (diabetes, substance use disorders, cancer, cardiovascular disease)



# 4. HISTORY OF TRAUMA



# DISCUSSION

What are your experiences as:

- service providers
- people with lived experience
- community members
- political leaders

# DISCUSSION

What do we do with this info?

Do we want to know more about our specific community?

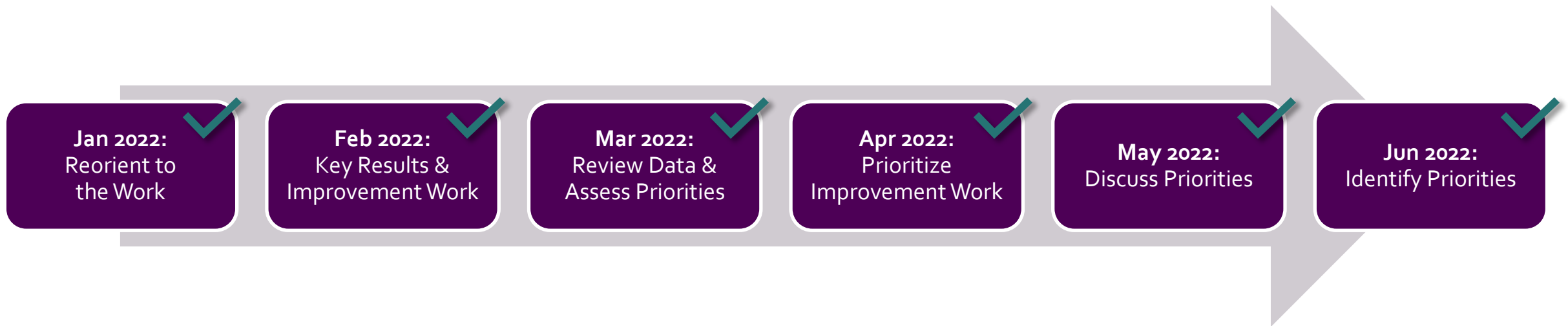
# NEXT STEPS

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

# ROADMAP THROUGH JUNE 2022

**By June 2022**, the PATH Innovations Committee will:

- Identify key results and improvement work
- Sponsor improvement work on system processes
- Establish quarterly data review process
- Assess the initiative's progress



# ROADMAP THROUGH DECEMBER 2022

**By December 2022**, the PATH Innovations Committee will:

- Develop work plans for prioritized bodies of work
- Assess progress of initiatives
- Review unsheltered metrics quarterly
- Update priorities in September 2022 (mid-point review)
- Set priorities for Calendar Year 2023

**Jul 2022:**  
Develop Work  
Plans

**Aug 2022:**  
TBD

**Sep 2022:**  
Assess Progress  
& Priorities

**Oct 2022:**  
Prioritize Work  
for CY 2023

**Nov 2022:**  
TBD

**Dec 2022:**  
Assess Progress  
& Next Steps

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **PATH Innovations Committee Meetings**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, 3:00-5:00
    - July 21
    - August 18
    - September 15
  - **Data Workgroup Meeting**
    - July 6, 2:00-3:00





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

## MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2022, 3 pm – 5 pm

**Meeting recording:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6H58PiGYUZkNrbh7mf\\_W3WNUGUX2\\_Oil4LWE1bJHtonD8I8HfZ4xQpt26xoynt0x.nka-DSaTOLpK\\_TbJ](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6H58PiGYUZkNrbh7mf_W3WNUGUX2_Oil4LWE1bJHtonD8I8HfZ4xQpt26xoynt0x.nka-DSaTOLpK_TbJ)

**Passcode:** nqF%Dzp1

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Public Comment</b> - Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.</li> </ul>	- <i>Members of the public</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Announcements</b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
3:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Setting the Course</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Action Plan</li> <li>Proposal: Focus on Coordinated Entry System</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	- <i>Christy Saxton, H3</i> - <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
3:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Snapshot of Unsheltered Homelessness</b></li> </ul>	- <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i>
3:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Overview of Coordinated Entry System</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	- <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i>
4:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Next Steps</b></li> </ul>	- <i>All</i>

### Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members in Attendance: Deanne Pearn, Jo Bruno, Juno Hedrick, Keva Dean, Margaret Schiltz, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Wayne Earl

Staff and Consultants: Jaime Jenett (H3), Shelby Ferguson (H3), Christy Saxton (H3), Dana Ewing (H3), Kimberly Thai (H3), Jamie Schechter (H3), Maddie Nation (Homebase), Michele Byrnes (Homebase), Matt Mitchell (Focus Strategies), Tracy Bennett (Focus Strategies), Hana Gossett (Focus Strategies)



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

## **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the February 17, 2022 meeting were approved by roll call vote with one committee member abstaining. Motion by Jo Bruno, second by Shawn Ray.

The abstaining committee member asked where the minutes are posted. Jaime Jenett shared the link to the Contra Costa website where the minutes are posted each month.

<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/agendacenter#cat62>

## **Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

## **Announcements**

When Jamie Schecter joined, Christy Saxton introduced her as the new CoC Director at H3, she just started in the position.

## **Setting the Course**

### North Star: Regional Action Plan

Christy Saxton addressed that the committee seemed to be asking Contra Costa to define what they are seeking from the committee going forward. The Board of Supervisors has signed on to adopt the Regional Action Plan that was developed by All Home. This plan's primary goal and intention is to reduce unsheltered homelessness by 75% within 3-years. This plan is the guiding force for the work of the County regarding homelessness and where all the committee and communities work ties back to.

### Proposal: Focus on Coordinated Entry System

Christy proposed that the Oversight committee embrace monitoring, program models, and performance-based contracting while PATH handles what is going to happen with the Coordinated Entry (CE) system. Focus Strategies is working with Contra Costa County to finalize and role out the CE Evaluation Report. Christy's hope is that this committee could look at the evaluation, its findings and recommendations, and support determining what actionable steps could be taken to improve the operation and function of CE.

Maddie added that both pieces of work, those proposed for Oversight and for PATH are large pieces of work that need to be tackled simultaneously and need proper attention and support.

Jaime Jenett reminded committee members that they can reach out to her if they don't feel this direction works for them or is something they want to focus on. She can work with committee members to change and focus on aspects of the system/work that best suit them.



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

Matt further noted that this is system-level work that will have an impact on reducing unsheltered homelessness.

## Discussion/Feedback

Shawn reminded that it is necessary to have outside input, as well as the committee's, to ensure that there isn't too narrow of insight into the process and system.

Deanne asked where this lives within the broader Council on Homelessness (CoH) and the Diversion, Equity, and Inclusion work. Jaime J. responded that the Equity Assessment went to CoH, and they created a working group to map a process for that to inform what specific interventions they want to first focus on.

Kiva wants to learn more about the Case Conferencing Workgroup and how to become involved with that, as well as their goals and expectations. Shelby elaborated that the Case Conferencing Workgroup is a collaboration between providers, H3, Focus Strategies and Community Solutions. Community Solutions (CS) is helping to streamline case conferencing across the system with the goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness.

## **Snapshot of Unsheltered Homelessness**

### Presentation of Data from Dana Ewing:

Dana presented data from Quarter 2 (October 2021 to December 2021) specifically for the data relating to the literally homeless population (unsheltered and sheltered households). The data showed:

- 1,089 unsheltered households currently experiencing homelessness
- 113 unsheltered households entered shelter
- 41 unsheltered and 49 sheltered households entered permanent housing
- The average length of stay in a shelter was 85 days
- 76 households exited from shelter and PH program to unsheltered homelessness

They are still in the process of testing the Data Mart (future data dashboard) to ensure that it represents what is needed in the best way possible.

### Discussion/Feedback

Shawn noted that this overview misses the "why" of things that have happened, such as why someone would have exited PH or shelter back to unsheltered homelessness. He asked if there is a way to look at why people are unsheltered and/or not successfully staying in shelter or housing.

Keva noted that this does not show demographics either, which doesn't allow for looking at the equitability of the system.

Deanne noted that there is no system-wide mechanism for follow up with clients once they exit a program and there is no funding for follow-up either. She asked if this is a place that CE may be able to support.



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

Matt informed the group that there would be quarterly report-outs of data going forward and that the Data Workgroup is meeting at the end of March and that workgroup may be a great place to discuss the data work and needs.

### **Overview of Coordinated Entry System**

Shelby Ferguson presented a high-level overview of the Coordinated Entry System. The CE system is intended to support a low-barrier and housing first oriented process to prioritize people for housing available in the community. The CE process starts with the Access Points, this is where people are assessed for their level of vulnerability and needs. These partner providers, support the process of giving people access to the housing system, assessing them for their vulnerability and housing needs, and assigning them to the best next step according to their assessment and the resources available in the community at the time. CE uses a Triage tool as their first step of assessment then the VI-SPDAT for the full assessment. The Access Points are:

- **211** serves people at risk and literally homeless; call-in center; conducts crisis counseling and the Triage tool
- **CORE** serves literally homeless with a focus on unsheltered homeless; they are mobile and provide emergency supplies; conducts the Triage tool and VI-SPDAT
- **CARE** serves at risk and literally homeless; has a drop-in location; conducts the Triage tool and VI-SPDAT

### Discussion/Feedback

Shawn asked what the average timeline is for someone to go from assessed to housed. Matt added the question of if length of time varies depending on the population. Shelby responded that this depends largely on the household composition, their vulnerability score, length of time homeless and housing availability.

Wayne asked if there is any subpopulation specific information for length of time. Shelby stated that the breakdown by subpopulation should be included in the CE report so that can likely be shared at the next meeting.

Shawn asked if we know the percentage of the population with smart phones and if we do, if it would be worth there being an app to support connection with resources. Shelby stated that we don't have that information at this point but that based on experience phones are a hit or miss issue because they get broken, stolen, or limited service. 211 does have a text option.

Wayne asked how successful CE is at maintaining relationships and contact with people experiencing homelessness for documentation and other supports. Shelby explained that there is HMIS data related to entries and exits to different programs and as documents are collected, they can be uploaded into HMIS. There is a strong focus on documentation gathering when CE starts engaging with a person so that there is progress and stronger connection.



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

Margaret asked if the Project Roomkey approach has been better than the old way of doing things. Shelby explained that Roomkey has been great in the sense that everyone is in one location with case managers on site and this makes it easier for the team to keep track of someone to keep them actively engaged in the housing process. Wayne asked how many have been housed through the process. Shelby noted that she could bring this information to a future meeting.

Shelby added that the addition of a CE specialist to support with document collection and retention has made it easier to get a referral made.

### **Next Steps**

The PATH Innovations Committee will meet next on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 3pm-5pm.

The Data Workgroup will meet on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 10am-11am.

The Case Conferencing Workgroup will meet on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 11am-12pm

### **Additional Attendees**

In addition to the facilitators, H3 staff, and Committee members listed, the following people attended the Zoom session:

- Leslie Gleason (Trinity Center – CoC/ESG Representative on the CoH)
- Jill Ray (Office of Supervisor Candace Andersen)
- Dawn Morrow (Office of Supervisor Diane Burgis)



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

## MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2022, 3 pm – 5 pm

### Recording of Discussion:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zXnHOgX40DFaLEcAf1y3o\\_D9eY4FHFHCTG2Y-Y0guYLg8exTazZ5-SSuiKUe4h-3.azrHDYMZIKoyhWss](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zXnHOgX40DFaLEcAf1y3o_D9eY4FHFHCTG2Y-Y0guYLg8exTazZ5-SSuiKUe4h-3.azrHDYMZIKoyhWss)

**Passcode:** 67@Pn7Wr

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Review and Approval of Minutes</u></b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> - Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.</li> </ul>	- <i>Members of the public</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Announcements</u></b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
3:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Coordinated Entry System Evaluation</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal: Focus on Coordinated Entry System</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
4:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Impact VS. Effort</u></b></li> </ul>	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i>
4:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Next Steps</u></b></li> </ul>	- <i>All</i>

### Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members in Attendance: Jo Bruno, Keva Dean, Shawn Ray, Tony Ucciferri, Wayne Earl

Staff and Consultants: Christy Saxon (H3), Jamie Schecter (H3), Jamie Jenett (H3), Shelby Ferguson (H3), Dana Ewing (H3), Kimberly Thai (H3), Mark Mora (Homebase), Carly Devlin (Homebase), Matt Mitchell (Focus Strategies), Shae Rowe (Focus Strategies)

### Review and Approval of Minutes

A quorum was not present, so a vote to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2022 meeting was not held. The approval for the March 17, 2022 minutes will be completed at the next Committee meeting.

### Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.



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

## **Announcements**

Jo Bruno invited the group to a partnership event taking place at 3:30pm, April 21, 2022. The Human Center, 211, and the Miles Hall Foundation are presenters. Kevin Garcia will be the keynote speaker for this event. Keva Dean invited meeting attendees to the annual Contra Costa Solano Food Bank Gala May 19, 2022, at 7:00pm. Ticket information and details can be found at the following link:

<https://www.foodbankccs.org/events-promotions/nourish-gala/>

## **Coordinated Entry System Evaluation**

### Results of the Coordinated System Entry Evaluation

Matt Mitchell presented the results of the Coordinated System Entry Evaluation requested by H3. The purpose of the evaluation was to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Coordinated Entry System in connecting consumers with permanent housing. Focus Strategies began its work on the evaluation September 2021 and completed the evaluation March 2022.

For this evaluation Focus Strategies analyzed qualitative and quantitative data. In a survey conducted with providers, Focus Strategies found that 76% of providers had a positive assessment of the effectiveness of the Coordinated Entry System, and described the system as either “somewhat” or “very effective.” Over half of provider staff who responded to the survey received training on the Coordinated Entry System within the past year.

One area of opportunity that came up in surveys and focus groups was the housing referral process. Participants explained that it is not always clear how someone is chosen from the community to be referred to housing, or who makes those decisions. Participants also expressed challenges regarding gathering the right documentation and navigating the housing referral once the referral has been received. Providers also expressed concerns about the consumers experience with the Coordinated Entry System. Providers explained that consumers do not always understand why they are being asked certain questions, and the role those questions play in determining whether they receive housing.

Another area of concern that was highlighted during the evaluation was the content of the assessment themselves, both the Triage Tool and the VI-SPDAT. Respondents explained that the Triage Tool does not always feel relevant to the provider, and the questions asked do not seem like the right set of questions to ask someone when they are first coming into the Coordinated Entry System. The VI-SPDAT was described as too long and asking questions that seemed insensitive or inappropriate.

### Consumer Feedback

One of the main areas that was highlighted by consumers consistently was difficulty accessing both housing and shelter. Resources are scarce, and people often have long stays in shelters because they have to wait quite a while to access housing. Another issues consumers discussed is the visibility of affordable housing and understanding where housing is available. Consumers still face difficulty accessing housing even when they have received vouchers and have all the resources they need in hand.



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As much effort that has gone into trying to consolidate and streamline the Coordinated Entry System, there is still not a single point of entry into all the affordable housing in the community. Consumers expressed a desire for improved communication and information about community resources. Many consumers described getting incomplete, incorrect, and inconsistent information about community resources.

Another issue consumers raised was a wide range of experiences trying to navigate housing and the homelessness response system. Participants expressed that not everyone has access to the same information and resources. Some groups of people may not have sufficient resources and may have limited access to housing. Two groups that were identified during the evaluation were undocumented and previously incarcerated individuals.

### Quantitative Analysis

The quantitative analysis examined the access, assess, and assign stages of the Coordinated Entry System to give a sense of scope of how many people engage in the Coordinated Entry System. The data is from October 2020 – September 2021. During that time about 3,300 households entered the Coordinated Entry System.

- Of the 3,300 households entered the Coordinated Entry System:
  - Nearly 1,800 were assessed with the Triage Tool
  - Approximately 1,100 received the VI-SPDAT assessment
  - 88 received housing referrals
  - 62 households received rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing during the period

Another area examined was progress through the Coordinated Entry System. The focus of this analysis were individuals who entered the Coordinated Entry System in the first six months of the analysis (October 2020 – March 2021), their progress, and final outcome in the Coordinated Entry System. The results showed 2% - 7% of households were housed through the Coordinated Entry System within a year of enrolling, which includes adults, families, and youth.

Of all adults who entered the Coordinated Entry System, only 49% were assessed. This analysis also found that a lot of households were not receiving the triage tool assessment. As a result, there was a big push around training and communication, resulting in 90% of adults receiving the Triage Tool assessment on the day of their enrollment.

### Equity Findings

Generally, access to the Coordinated Entry System was equitable. There was some indication that BIPOC adults enrolled in the Coordinated Entry System at slightly higher rates than white consumers. However, when it came to assessments, Indigenous and Latino/a/x adults and indigenous families were less likely to be assessed. These groups were more likely to be enrolled, but never made it much further than enrollment.





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This could be for a variety of reasons, including not coming back if the assessment wasn't completed during the time of enrollment. Given that the best practice is to not complete the VI-SPDAT right away, as it requires relationship building, this could contribute to fewer Latino/a/x and Indigenous families being assessed.

Another equity finding under the assessment was that black adults scored significantly lower on the VI-SPDAT, which is consistent with findings from national evaluations of the VI-SPDAT, which seems to consistently produce biased results. One of the equity findings also noted was that Latino/a/x adults and Black families are less likely to be referred to rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing.

### Recommendations

The equity findings are not included in the recommendations, because the equity work will be taken up by an equity working group within the Council on Homelessness. A selected list of recommendations that could be a good fit for the PATH Innovation was brought forward. One recommendation under the access stage is further work on understanding barriers to access, specifically around subgroups and subpopulations (e.g., undocumented and previously incarcerated populations).

Under the assessment stage, one recommendation is to integrate housing problem solving more fully and try to weave housing problem solving into the assessments. Since only a small subset of people will be housed through the Coordinated Entry System, keeping housing problem solving in the foreground is important since people will need to find housing through some other means.

Another recommendation is refining the Triage Tool. Exploring alternatives to the VI-SPDAT, replacing the content of the assessment, and looking at the process itself is also recommended. If only a small proportion of households get housed through the Coordinated Entry System, some of the time spent on assessments could possibly be used for housing problem solving.

Under the assignment stage, refining the case conferencing processes is recommended. This is currently in the works and Shelby Ferguson is leading the case conferencing workgroup. It is recommended that the case conferencing process be refined to make sure case conferencing processes and referrals that are connected, are objective and all the right providers are at the table, so the process is inclusive, and everyone can advocate for their client. Problem solving for non-referred households is also recommended. Households that are not going to be referred to housing through the Coordinated Entry System need problem solving to make sure they are not sitting in the community queue indefinitely.

Another recommendation highlighted in the evaluation was training and communication. Communicating the Coordinated Entry System to the community strategically and its processes so that the community can understand the good work that is happening, and make sure everyone knows how to gain access to the Coordinated Entry System is recommended.

Lastly, better integrating homelessness prevention so that fewer households need the Coordinated Entry System is recommended. There may be opportunities to creatively strengthen connection with homelessness prevention.



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### Discussion Feedback

Wayne Earl asked if there is an accurate assessment of what is available compared to the population in need? Matt Mitchell explained that there is quantitative data within the presentation that shows the number of people who enroll in the Coordinated Entry System and how many are able to get housing in a period of time. Matt asked members of H3 if there is any existing information that can answer Wayne's question.

Christy Saxon explained that there is not a coordinated effort across departments since not all housing comes from H3. However, there is an assembly bill in process currently, that should create an overall database for all affordable housing. Tony Ucciferri discussed a group of people that are partnering with DAHLIA (system that tracks all housing in San Francisco) that are working on a project call Doorway to coordinate a regional clearing house, where one application gets you access to housing through out the Bay Area. Jamie Jenett encouraged the group to reach out to core, as they can assist with immediate crises response.

Wayne Earl explained that there could be different issues for the previously incarcerated that make it difficult to access housing. Wayne Earl asked if there was more granular information on previously incarcerated individuals. Matt Mitchell responded explaining that it was recommended to further explore populations that are experiencing greater barriers accessing the Coordinated Entry System. Jill Ray explained that it's not necessarily certain crimes that make accessing housing difficult. Jill noted that HUD restricts some people with past felonies from obtaining a housing voucher.

Wayne Earl asked if there is a reason the assessment is not conducted at the time of enrollment? Wayne Earl also noted the need to know and understand how much housing is available, because you cannot house people in housing that does not exist, which effects the percentages that are seen in the data. Jill Ray asked if everyone needed housing, or were there other supports individuals were able to get throughout the evaluation, and if only 2% of consumers are receiving housing, how many consumers are still left homeless? Gina Bills explained that generally about 30% of individuals that are literally homeless exit to housing, so some are finding other avenues as Jill Ray suggested.

### **Impact vs. Effort**

Jamie Schecter guided the discussion on impact and effort. This discussion served as a guide and starting point to discuss what recommendations the group would like to take on and what that would look like for the group. Jamie explained that when understanding the effort necessary for a recommendation, questions like "what does it take to get something done?", "do we have the people, the resources, the time to take something on?", helps determine if the recommendation requires high or low effort. Asking questions like this also helps determine the level of planning, time, and resources necessary to get it done.

Regarding impact, Jamie suggested thinking about what sort of change the recommendation can make. If it creates a positive transformational change to the system, it could be considered high impact. If the recommendation is helpful to do, but might not be the right solution, its low impact.



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The recommendations within the CES Evaluation will help the group determine how choices are being made about what is prioritized as a community. Should the group prioritize a few low impact recommendations for early wins? Or should the group prioritize higher impact recommendations? How is the group deciding to make these choices based on its capacity?

Jamie also discussed the group's overall purpose (and regional plan) which is reducing homelessness by 75% by 2024 and 30% by the end of this year. Jamie explained that while the recommendations need to happen and be present to support a strong Coordinated Entry System, a lot of them won't necessarily contribute to a huge significant decrease in unsheltered homelessness. Jamie explained the need to think about how the group can pull in the rest of the community and county to achieve the regional plan.

### Recommendations Poll

*Matt Mitchell held a poll in which meeting attendees rated the recommendations high, medium, or low in terms of how much impact participants felt the recommendation could have on reducing unsheltered homelessness. The results of the poll were used to guide subsequent discussion.*

### Discussion and Feedback

Keva Dean explained that she voted high for barriers to access because if the homeless community does not understand the access they have to the Coordinated Entry System, that will definitely impact how they can be served. Matt Mitchell added that no consumers who participated in the evaluation were familiar with the Coordinated Entry System. They participated in it but were not aware of what it was.

Dana Ewing explained that she voted low for barriers to access because there are already so many people in the system of care not getting housed, and the more people that enter the systems of care, the more their numbers don't change. Dana explained that so many people are already accessing a system of care that is overtaxed.

Wayne Earl asked what recommendations are anticipated to have the most impact. Wayne noted that 30% of people gain housing outside of the Coordinated Entry System, which implies that some are being referred. Wayne expressed that the recommendations are too big when the data shows people get housing better on their own than through the Coordinated Entry System.

Regarding housing problem solving, Keva Dean asked if integrating housing problem solving, is included in the assessment process? Keva also asked if housing problem solving is in the assessment process, why isn't every family being assessed at the beginning of enrollment? If someone is coming into the Coordinated Entry System, they are ready to resolve their issues so they should be open and willing, with the right person taking the assessment, to discuss their situation. Shelby Ferguson responded to Keva explaining that the triage tool is the assessment that happens at the beginning of enrollment and includes housing problem solving. Shelby further explained that the VI-SPDAT happens later because the questions are very personal and require relationship building. Matt Mitchell suggested discussing timelines for the work going forward.



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

## **Next Steps**

The PATH Innovations Committee will meet next on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 3pm-5pm

The Data Workgroup will meet on April 28<sup>th</sup>

The Case Conferencing Workgroup will meet on April 28<sup>th</sup>

## **Additional Attendees**

In addition to the facilitators, H3 staff, and Committee members listed, the following people attended the Zoom session:

- Jill Ray (Office of Supervisor Candace Andersen)
- Gina Bills



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

## MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, May 19, 2022, 3 pm – 5 pm

### Recording of Discussion:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/FqW8kkhcnY-J-wss4rNIsVexxW0Ay8BY349RSVqT\\_3swAe3TjZAkjyjIjGLT-7sJw.NWZ5mUIWFicFlrO9](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/FqW8kkhcnY-J-wss4rNIsVexxW0Ay8BY349RSVqT_3swAe3TjZAkjyjIjGLT-7sJw.NWZ5mUIWFicFlrO9)

**Passcode:** +?FZv5=w

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Welcome and Introductions</b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Comment</b> - Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.</li> </ul>	- <i>Members of the public</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Announcements</b></li> </ul>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
3:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Workgroup Status Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case Conferencing Workgroup</li> <li>• Data Workgroup</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	- <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i> - <i>Nate French, Community Solutions</i> - <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
3:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prioritizing Work through December 2022</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision and timeline</li> <li>• Discuss bodies of work proposed in April meeting</li> <li>• <b>(ACTION ITEM):</b> Propose and approve priorities through December 2022</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i> - <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
4:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next Steps</b></li> </ul>	- <i>All</i>

### Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members in Attendance: Deanne Pearn, Jo Bruno, Margaret Schiltz, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Tony Ucciferri, Wayne Earl

Staff and Consultants: Christy Saxon (H3), Jamie Schecter (H3), Jamie Jenett (H3), Shelby Ferguson (H3), Dana Ewing (H3), Kimberly Thai (H3), Matt Mitchell (Focus Strategies), Hana Gossett (Focus Strategies), Tracy Bennett (Focus Strategies)

### Review and Approval of Minutes

Seeking approval of the minutes from March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Minutes were posted separately and not included in the meeting packet and therefore were not voted on in this session.



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

## **Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

## **Workgroup Status Updates**

The case conferencing workgroup met a few times over the winter. During these meetings, Community Solutions introduced best practices and simple tools to help improve case conferencing processes. Provider organizations learned from these workgroup meetings and have begun adopting the best practices that were discussed. No further case conferencing workgroup meetings are needed at this time.

Case conferencing is most often conducted at the provider organization level and generally takes place once or twice a month. Case conferencing is often centered around housing plans and may include multiple community partners, as needed. By contrast, Housing Placement Meetings happen at the CoC level and on an as-needed basis. These are convened when 5 or more units are available through Coordinated Entry at the same time with the goal of efficiently identifying referrals for multiple openings.

### Data Workgroup

The data workgroup met four times between December 2021 and March 2022, identifying key metrics for measuring unsheltered homelessness. During the March meeting, the RED team presented an analysis of the causes of homelessness, and the workgroup discussed future analyses and data needs.

The unsheltered data mart, which forms the foundation for reporting on the unsheltered metrics, is nearly complete. The RED team has developed and implemented a new tool that streamlines the analysis of data quality. They are engaged in an iterative improvement process, and they continue to refine their data models and tools to improve the accuracy of the data. The goal is to use the unsheltered data mart to produce key metrics. Once the data mart is complete, the RED team will create a data dashboard for the PATH Innovations Committee.

The data workgroup will continue to help provide a feedback loop for driving this work. The next two meetings will be scheduled soon.

## **Prioritizing Work through December 2022**

In the April Committee meeting, the Committee discussed the fact that the goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness by 30% by December 2022 is a goal of the entire county, not solely on the shoulders of the PATH Committee. This allows for H3 to work with partner systems across the county to support reducing unsheltered homelessness.



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The proposal today is to establish direction for the work for the next 6 months, then complete an assessment of direction and alignment at the mid-point of September 2022. Further assess of progress and development of next steps will occur by December 2022.

## Prospective Bodies of Work

Four bodies of work that were discussed at the April meeting are well-aligned with the Committee's objective: communicate CES processes, refine housing placement meeting, integrate housing problem solving, and identify alternatives to VI-SPDAT. Additionally, two new ideas were brought forward by Committee members in the prior meeting: explore interim housing options and increase supportive services.

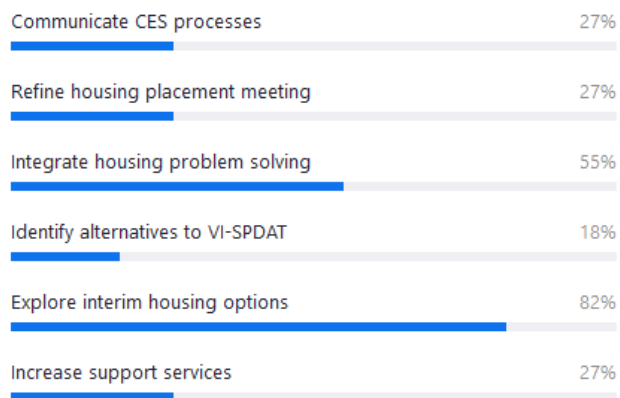
Poll:

The committee was polled to prioritize the order of topics for discussion. The poll resulted in the following discussion order:

1. Explore interim housing options (82%)
2. Integrate housing problem solving (55%)
3. Communicate CE processes (27%)
4. Increase support services (27%)
5. Refine housing placement meeting (27%)
6. Alternatives to VI-SPDAT (18%)

## Discussion

1. Which of these topics would you like to focus the discussion on?  
(Multiple Choice) \*



You did not answer this question

Close



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## Explore Interim Housing Options

Shawn Ray opened the discussion by emphasizing the importance of helping people quickly obtain short-term housing or shelter. He encouraged finding ways to reconnect people with their families and then provide support to the whole family to maintain stability. Wayne Earl agreed, noting that interim housing and shelter serve people while they are waiting for longer term housing opportunities, further noting that interim housing can save lives. Shelby Ferguson stated that a similar program already exists through the Hume Center and that program could potentially be expanded upon. Margaret Schiltz described the Hume Center program in more detail, explaining that the prevention program helps reunite people with families and work through resolving issues to help them stay housed once reconnected. Hume Center also subsidizes hotel rooms with extended stay hotels and provides case management and then helps to move people into a longer-term housing subsidy.

Jamie Schecter stated that some of the ideas discussed could be considered part of housing problem solving. She explained that the term “Interim Housing” refers more specifically to physical units to house people temporarily.

Shawn Ray responded to the prior discussion stating that law enforcement does not know about Hume Center’s program. He emphasized that how the system breaks down silos and collaborates with police and county jails is important to improving outcomes. He also noted that there will be two additional officers dedicated to homeless outreach and they need to have a partnership with H3.

Deanne Pearn noted the importance of defining terms. She noted that Diversion, Prevention, and Rapid Exit are terms that describe a lot of what has been discussed. These programs are usually less financial assistance and more supportive services. In contrast Interim Housing is usually short-term units. She also noted that hotel vouchers are very expensive.

Jo Bruno commented about the importance of shared housing. She gave the example of community housing, people with elder care who do not need much support but can rent a room. She also noted the importance of having conversations about property owners and land trusts. She gave an example of renters buying a building together from the landowner. Additionally, she recommended peer respite as an opportunity to explore and consider turning into a housing model in the system.

## Integrate Housing Problem Solving

Matt Mitchell described this body of work as: finding more ways to house consumers outside of the housing resources available within the system and identifying best practices and creative ways to spread and scale problem solving. For this body of work, the Committee’s role could include learning from providers to identify promising practices, recommending best practices to spread across service providers, and brainstorming creative opportunities to scale housing problem solving. The body of work is expected to take between four and eight months.

Margaret Schiltz expressed interest in data about causes of people becoming homeless. She wanted to know whether the causes are related to families losing jobs and then losing their housing. She noted that mental health (her area of focus) is a domain of its own. She wanted to know what the best short





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term housing strategies are for most people. Shawn Ray agreed, stating that the “why” can serve as the basis of what to work on. Matt Mitchell noted that it sounds like there is demand for analysis from RED team to help understand the promising practices in the community.

Teri House commented that local jurisdictions have funding for tenant-landlord counseling. Services available through programs run by Shelter, Inc. and Bay Area Legal Aid. She suggested surveying these organizations to learn more about the causes of homelessness and what interventions are working. Jamie Schecter noted the importance of scaling what is working and finding creative prevention and diversion methods. Margaret Schiltz elaborated, stating that she wants to understand what interim housing solutions would be most helpful for people impacted for different reasons. Dana Ewing noted that people with completely different situations will need completely different solutions based on their different experiences and complications. Shelby Ferguson stated that Committee members should focus on what is realistic given the role and capacity of this Committee. Deanne Pearn agreed with Dana’s comment, noting that we should look at data and look at what is working within our own services and programs. She also stated that short-term solutions become the long-term solutions. Due to the nature of COVID, the CoC has been working in a restricted way and focused on the short term; however, it is important not to lose sight of the longer term.

Teri House noted that Antioch receives many calls from people who are disabled and seniors on fixed income looking for assistance. Antioch is putting together instructions on what to do and where to look and how to access help, but she noted that this is not enough.

Jo Bruno suggested that the Committee not reinvent the wheel. Some interventions are already working in other communities. She asked how Contra Costa can build on what has already started and is working well. Perhaps the Committee can tie in with other departments’ discussions and build a stronger network to find more places for people and alternative solutions.

Margaret Schiltz stated that staffing is a challenge. There is not enough funding to pay the staff doing the work. In response, Jo Bruno suggested that people donate to a trust that can help with funding for the positions.

Deanne Pearn commented that integrating housing problem solving as a more immediate strategy that echoes what is coming out of the program models. However, this takes training, tools, consistency and marketing about CES. Concrete next step would include figuring out what the training is and getting aligned and see some outcomes and learn from that.

Jaime Schecter reflected that this topic has a lot of interest and can be something that Committee takes on.

### Communicate CES Processes

Matt Mitchell described the “Communication about CES processes” body of work, noting that the work may be achievable within three to four months. The outcome for this body of work would be improved understanding of accessing CES and related housing resources. The Committee would help develop the strategy, provide feedback on the content, and share information about CES.



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Wayne Earl commented in context of PATH, work on CES is about optimizing resources already in place. However, the catch is whether we have the housing. The Committee's objective may be an impossible goal, and this needs to be communicated because there are not enough resources available right now.

Christy Saxton responded, agreeing that right now we do not have the resources or money to build our way out of homelessness. However, not enough people know about the resources that already exist. The marketing needs work, so we can educate people about what the programs are and what is available to help. She noted that Cal-AIM will be even more support. Messaging can be done while still gathering resources to build more housing.

Jo Bruno commented that it is problematic that Shawn Ray (law enforcement) was not aware of the Hume Center's program, identifying that as a specific case of a larger problem. She suggested creating informational videos that explain what programs do as a possible solution. Margaret Schiltz shared additional information about the Hume Center's programs.

Jaime Jenett described the communication issue as complicated and needing to be tackled from various angles. She commented that the communication strategy needs guidance from the Committee to help inform how the system is marketed. There are many nuances and complicated referral pathways, which need to be communicated at a high-level.

### Refine housing placement meeting

Matt Mitchell described the "Refine housing placement meeting" body of work as further standardizing housing placement meeting process and increasing the transparency of housing resource allocation. The work would include evaluating the housing placement meetings and providing recommendations on how to improve. The committee would learn about processes, provide feedback, and monitor changes and improvements.

Wayne Earl asked a clarifying question about coordinated entry and how the prospective bodies of work fit in. Matt Mitchell responded, stating that all four of the bodies of work with strong alignment are parts of or closely related to the CE system. The bodies of work came out of the CES evaluation.

Deanne Pearn asked whether the housing placement meetings would help achieve the goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness. Shelby Ferguson described the housing placement meeting as being about how to assign, refer and prioritize people equitably, with an eye toward improving the system as a whole. Jamie Schechter commented that this body of work could improve trust and the outcomes of people exiting homelessness.

Teri House suggested that this body of work should be lower the priority because it does not have a direct impact on unsheltered homelessness.

### Identify alternatives to VI-SPDAT

Matt Mitchell described the "Identify alternatives to VI-SPDAT" body of work, stated that it would result in a more equitable and trauma-informed assessment for prioritizing housing resources and in reduced time spent asking unnecessary questions. The work would involve developing trauma-informed



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assessment content and designing a streamlined assessment process for CES prioritization. The committee would evaluate the content of the VI-SPDAT through feedback from consumers and providers, define what success looks like, and sponsor a process to develop or identify alternatives.

There were comments from multiple committee members indicating that replacing the VI-SPDAT is important but may not be appropriate for this Committee at this time.

Margaret Schiltz asked a clarifying question about the scope of CES and how it can be accessed from outside of shelters. Shelby Ferguson described the three types of access points: 211, CARE centers, and CORE outreach. She also described the role of the VI-SPDAT as the housing needs assessment for prioritizing consumers for housing and helping them get into housing appropriate for their needs.

Jo Bruno commented that replacing or changing the VI-SPDAT would involve changing the whole process that CE utilizes. Wayne Earl commented that there is not yet a replacement for the VI-SPDAT at the national level. He suggested that this issue is beyond the scope of this Committee. Perhaps the COH should appoint a longer-term Committee to tackle this specific issue.

Christy Saxton commented that CES must use an assessment tool, and the VI-SPDAT was chosen because it was one of the only tools available at the time. It is not the only one now, there are a lot of different things out there and can be implemented. She noted that Contra Costa can be on the cutting edge, and it would be good to be cutting edge on this one.

Tracy Bennett noted that the tool's author does not support it any further, understanding that it is not optimal for many communities. Many communities are replacing it, and many have already done research on what is out there. Some are developing tools that are unique to their communities, so they can incorporate what is important for their community. It is a big job, but Contra Costa would not be out of line to tackle this.

Teri House stated that if goal is to meet reduction of 30% of unsheltered homelessness, it is not clear that the VI-SPDAT body of work would help achieve this goal.

### Summarizing the Discussion

Matt Mitchell summarized what the Committee had discussed. Refining the housing placement meeting and replacing the VI-SPDAT were not top priorities. However, creative solutions to prevention and diversion and communication strategies for CES emerged as potential priorities.

Teri House and Wayne Earl expressed support for the proposed priorities, and each offered more detailed descriptions of the work. Teri House underscored the importance of leveraging existing evidence on what interventions work. Wayne Earl reaffirmed the time-sensitive nature of prevention, diversion, and housing placement work. Jamie Schecter underscored the use of evidence for supporting policy and advocacy goals. Deanne Pearn expressed concern about the potential of private fundraising for community initiatives, as community-based organizations rely heavily on private donors already.

Jo Bruno asked whether any community-based organizations are currently buying buildings or creating land trusts. Jill Ray responded with information about Measure X.



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### Vote on Priorities

Matt asked whether any Committee members would like to make a motion about proposed priorities or whether the Committee would need additional time or information to get to a proposal.

After discussion, a potential proposal emerged to focus on two bodies of work: homelessness prevention and rapid exit from homelessness. Both bodies of work should include an understanding of the “why,” evidence on what works, and foreground communication and training.

Jo Bruno made a motion to vote on this proposal.

Margaret Schiltz seconded the motion.

The committee discussed the proposal, but disagreement emerged on the scope of the “rapid exit” portion of the proposal. There was confusion over terminology because rapid exit is the name of an existing program model. Deanne Pearn indicated she would abstain from the vote due to lack of clarity, and other members of the Committee came to consensus that they were not ready to hold a vote.

A vote was not held.

Matt Mitchell summarized next steps, which include revisiting the priorities at the June meeting and developing workplans for the July meeting.

### **Additional Attendees**

In addition to the facilitators, H3 staff, and Committee members listed, the following people attended the Zoom session:

- Jill Ray (Office of Supervisor Candace Andersen)
- La Tanya Johnson
- Derlin Hsu
- Gina Bills