



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

## MINUTES

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

**RECORDING OF MEETING:**

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

**PASSCODE:**

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



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## **Welcome and Introductions**

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

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

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

## **Hybrid Meeting Norms**

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

## **Review and Approval of Minutes**

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

## **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

## **Accountability Corner**

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

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



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

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

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

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

### **PIT Count Update**

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

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

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



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## **Unsheltered Dashboard**

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

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

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

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

## **System Performance Measures**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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## **Prevention Learning Cohort Update**

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

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

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

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

## **Next Steps**

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