



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

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

RECORDING OF MEETING:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/iA_tjBFR6oZ7qcB6gTy8QfLJXxRYPBhiP9pDe7eDoi21XTs0Few_1MuCUgVnMsM_ymS-Bs7qkLA82cOT

PASSCODE:

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Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
9:00	Welcome and Introductions	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	Hybrid Meeting Norms	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	Review and Approval of Minutes	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	Public Comment – Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.	- <i>Members of the public</i>
9:25	Prevention Learning Cohort Progress Update – Update from Community Solutions and discussion of prevention definition	- <i>Community Solutions</i> - <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i>
9:50	Measure X (and other funding sources) RFP Awards – Overview of recommendations, new providers, and funding source details	- <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i>
10:05	Provider Spotlight: HomeSafe – Overview of a targeted prevention and rapid rehousing program for older adults or adults with disabilities	- <i>Daisy Gallegos, Contra Costa Employment and Human Services, Adult Protective Services</i>
10:30	Update on Point-In-Time Count Reporting – Discussion on 2023 PIT Count infographic	- <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i>
10:45	Announcements	- <i>All</i>
10:50	Next Steps	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>



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Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members in Attendance: Wayne Earl, Deanne Pearn, Tony Ucciferri, Iman Novin, Juno Hedrick

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

Additional Attendees: Kalil Macklin (Anthem Blue Cross), Tom Albanese (Community Solutions), Stephanie Stovall (Health Services), Cheri Chassaing (SHELTER, Inc), Kathryn Ross (SHELTER, Inc.), Valerie Price (Caminar), Jasmine Pita (SHELTER, Inc.), Carl Mason (Hope Solutions), Jo Bruno (Delta Peers), Daisy Gallegos (CCC Adult Protective Services)

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

Review and Approval of Minutes

Wayne Earl made a motion to approve the minutes from May 18, 2023. Tony Ucciferri seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Prevention Learning Cohort Progress Update

Tom Albanese and Shelby Ferguson provided an update on work to develop a coordinated prevention system framework in partnership with Community Solutions. Tom Albanese noted that Community Solutions has been working with an ad-hoc group in the county and that the work is part of a national learning cohort focused on co-designing coordinated prevention approaches. Shelby Ferguson noted that they have presented this topic to the Committee before, and that Tom and others have been helpful in mapping out prevention in the community.

Tom Albanese stated that the group is working on developing a framework to help articulate principles and establish a shared, documented understanding of what prevention means in this context. He described reasons why it is useful to have a coordinated prevention framework including clarifying where prevention resources fit, supporting equitable investment, and facilitating alignment with partners.



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Tom Albanese described key concepts and definitions for prevention based on a public health model that includes primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention approaches. He noted that targeted prevention and diversion are coupled together in Contra Costa County's schema and discussed some funding restrictions when using federal dollars. He also presented some core principles that are described more fully in a companion document being developed including effectiveness, equity, and efficiency and noted that efficiency means in part that there is "no wrong door" and that supports are targeted and timely.

Juno Hedrick asked what the term "no wrong door" means in this context. Tom Albanese noted that a long of prevention work is not actually preventing literal homelessness and so we need to be efficient and target those most at risk. He stated that this couples with the idea of "no wrong door" as that means prevention services should be accessible and available as close to where people are living as we can make them. He noted some communities are training people in different sectors including health, education, and corrections to expand access points.

Wayne Earl asked about funding and stated that there can be challenges with diversion funds being used when there is no paper trail such as when someone is living with a friend as their unofficial landlord. He also asked about how 211 would be involved and noted that it is currently a primary way to access prevention but is under-resourced. He expressed worry about the impact of adding more work without more resources.

Tom Albanese noted that he personally does not advise using 211 and discussed an example in Sacramento that builds out additional access points in which people can receive support from competent, trained, and certified staff in partner agencies. He also noted that federal and state dollars are often not flexible enough to meet needs in many cases and that communities who are ahead on prevention work are developing flexible funds from private dollars, local dollars, and other sources. He stated that Community Solutions just provided a \$200,000 grant to Charlotte, North Carolina and discussed a new initiative in Columbus, OH that uses federal emergency rental assistance to build staff infrastructure. Jo Bruno noted the recent implementation of the 988 line for mental health and stated the prevention system could consider a similar approach.

Tom Albanese next presented on housing insecurity and stratifying risk levels in relation to developing a scale that can help standardize screening and map resources. He noted that the group is working on establishing a shared vision, understanding, and commitment.

Iman Novin asked about how technology will be used in the work. Tom Albanese discussed an example from Sacramento in which they use leaner versions of HMIS program set ups for access points to collect data and facilitate referrals. He also noted that some communities are looking at software called Unite Us and that there were still questions to consider about things like CalAim and interfaces between electronic records.



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Shelby Ferguson that Measure X includes some funding that operates outside of the HUD definitions and that they will be looking at work from Sacramento around trainings provided by people with lived experience. Tom Albanese noted that they would take feedback from today back to the ad-hoc group.

Deanne Pearn stated that this is a great step forward for the community and asked how it will be operationalized with providers. She noted that Hope Solutions is already on the ground doing work and that while she likes the idea of distributed responsibilities, it can put pressure on things like trainings and standards of care. She also asked how this work maps to what we already have, such as shelter beds.

Tom Albanese agreed and noted that the process is still in the beginning stages. He stated that no community has this fully figured out yet and that standards around things like ethics and trauma informed engagement are important. He noted that ensuring no harm is done is the paramount priority. Tom Albanese also noted that there is environmental scanning as part of this process that will involve mapping resources.

Tony Ucciferri noted that having a centralized access system like 211 can be helpful and asked if we will be moving away from that approach. He noted that it can be confusing when people have to use multiple systems and that even folks that work in the system like him don't even know all the resources. Tom Albanese stated that they want communities to remove artificial distinctions between the homelessness response system and other systems and said that there should be resources available no matter where people show up. Shelby Ferguson noted that discussions around homeless response often don't include things like prevention or food pantries, and that the idea is to open the discussions up. She also stated that the goal is to train people to know where to refer, including to 211 and other agencies.

Committee members discussed the idea of a centralized access point compared to allowing other agencies to assist with triage. Tom Albanese stated that he appreciates all the feedback and noted that training people takes some investment. He stated that it should be an all of the above approach and that if people in agencies are trained to do more than hand people a phone number then that can be helpful.

Measure X (and Other Funding Sources) RFP awards

Shelby Ferguson presented an update on Measure X and other funding. She noted that the Board of Supervisors passed funding recommendations this week for several programs including Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention program, CalWORKS, Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program, and Coordinated Entry. She also discussed targeted prevention programs for transition aged youth, families with minor children, and people at imminent risk of losing housing.

Shelby Ferguson noted that \$3.96 million was recommended to support Prevention/Diversion and Rapid Exit funding including for contracts with five non-profits and that about \$1 million would support legal



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services. She noted that direct financial assistance is expected to be about 60% of each award which means around 350 households should be served assuming around \$5,000 per household.

Tony Ucciferri asked what direct assistance can be used for. Shelby Ferguson stated that the funds are pretty flexible and can be used for housing and related things like grocers if that is identified via problem solving.

Juno Hedrick asked which populations this can support. Shelby Ferguson noted that only a small portion of the population are at imminent risk of losing housing and that the funds can also support transition aged youth, CalWORKS, and other households.

Wayne Earl asked if this is one-time funding or reoccurring. Shelby Ferguson stated that there are both types of funding and that in general a lot of the funding is renewable.

Provider Spotlight: HomeSafe

Daisy Gallegos from Adult Protective Services (APS) presented an overview of the HomeSafe program that serves elder adults 60 or older and dependent adults from ages 18-59 with physical or mental limitations who are unable to perform activities of daily living who are APS clients or in the process of intake and who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. She stated that the HUME Center provides direct services, and the program is funded by the California Department of Social Services and then a series of subcontracts including H3.

Daisy Gallegos noted that the components of the program include intensive case management, housing stabilization services, housing navigation, direct financial assistance, and connections to long-term supports.

Tony Ucciferri asked about program volume and whether there are any backlogs. Daisy Gallegos stated that clients must come through APS and they typically receive 5-20 referrals per month and are typically busier in the summer and winter. She noted that during busy seasons the waitlist can be for a week or two, but that clients usually have quick access.

Wayne Early asked about how abuse and neglect factor into program access. Daisy Gallegos notes that they can also receive referrals for self-neglect if people are not able to meet their basic needs. Juno Hedrick asked about access points and where they receive referrals. Daisy Gallegos noted that there are mandatory reporters in the community, and they can also receive self-reports from individuals.

Juno Hedrick asked how homelessness and imminent risk are defined. Daisy Gallegos stated they use a flexible definition that can include people with either a written notice or a verbal warning of eviction and that they can also consider people living with friends or family if it is not a stable situation.

Iman Novin asked if the HUME Center has a physical location. Daisy Gallegos stated that while they do have an office, the services are mobile and meeting clients where they live.



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Matt Mitchells asked about the connection between the services offered by HomeSafe and the prevention work presented earlier. Shelby Ferguson stated that HomeSafe is essentially a targeted prevention program that can do specific, individualized work including things like supports to address hoarding, relocation services, and legal assistance to help people stabilize housing.

Deanne Pearn asked if there was an income threshold. Daisy Gallegos stated there is no threshold but that having income is helpful with locating housing and that they work to connect people without income to shelters, SSI, and other benefits. Deanne Pearn noted that this means there is some overlap with the homeless system target population but that many clients may not overlap.

Iman Novin asked who landlords can talk to about making units available. Daisy Gallegos stated they can work with the HUME center to determine matching and that HomeSafe can help with things like supporting a portion of rent for a few months when needed. She noted this approach is often cheaper than using hotels.

Matt Mitchell stated that this program is interesting because it serves people at various stages of risk levels and that it may be a good test case to think about coordinated prevention in the community.

Update on Point-in-Time Count Reporting

Dana Ewing discussed some upcoming reports related to the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. She noted that there is currently an infographic up on the website and that they are working on a StoryMap with a consultant. She stated the StoryMap will use GIS data on unsheltered homelessness overlaid with other county data and additional research and information.

Wayne Earl noted that the infographic has been widely distributed and noted that it can obscure in some cases. He discussed the example that while the County saw a 4% rise in the PIT count, the City of Richmond saw a rise of 79%. Dana Ewing noted that they will be specifically addressing that issues that that they would like folks to look at regional efforts where possible. She noted that the largest city in all three regions had an increase, while the cities around them had decreases.

Shelby Ferguson noted that this may be due in part to where services are located and that they often hear from people that they stay near services. Wayne Earl stated he wants to be sure we are not discounting cities and other areas with great needs. Dana Ewing noted that the StoryMap should help and that they would like to connect to discuss options.

Juno Hedrick stated that referring to the expertise of people experiencing homelessness can also help us know what is going on and noted for example that people may feel that some places are less safe than others. Juno Hedrick noted that the Committee could think through surveys, intake questions, or other methods to ask people why they choose to stay in certain areas. Dana Ewing stated that they do ask where people lost their housing, but that does not always match with where people slept last night.



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Matt Mitchell asked if some of that type of data from the PIT survey will be included in the StoryMap. Dana Ewing asked that committee members let her know if they feel anything is missing from the infographic and that they are working on the annual report so now is a good time to provide feedback.

Iman Novin stated that it may be useful to pair the StoryMap with how many resources would be needed to address gaps. Jamie Jenett stated they have tried to do something similar in the past but that it can be challenging to tell the story and determine the true cost as things shift quickly and there are lots of nuances. She noted that they may want to further discuss the idea with additional people in the County. Deanne Pearn stated that some of this type of work may be a good role for All Home to help get a regional view.

Wayne Earl noted that while we do good work on the PIT county, it may be an undercount which could mean using it to determine resources would be undercutting the actual resources needed. Dana Ewing noted that the number of people served in the CoC over the course of a year can also be used.

Announcements

Jamie Jenett stated that there is a funding opportunity related to Adult Protective Services and the HomeSafe program that was released last week. She suggested that folks who are interested in learning more should look at the Request for Qualifications.

Next Steps

Matt Mitchell noted the Committee will be moving into Quarter 3 and upcoming meetings will include a focus on performance-based contracting, accountability corners, and more. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2023.