



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

## MINUTES

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

**RECORDING OF MEETING:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aQCIP0BRgxBKOjqJYGtLls5nemWpLp9gijW6JnobQ7DqE4qIONZ-fbcDvuhqJmw7.FcUe-N2pYnAjBwEp>

**PASSCODE:**

Pe#1xEE7

| 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> – Quarterly review of Committee’s work in relation to 2023 Workplan       | - <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i>             |
| 9:25  | <b>Point-In-Time StoryMap</b> – Review of selected findings and sections of the 2023 PIT StoryMap      | - <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i>                  |
| 9:35  | <b>Break</b>   | - <i>All</i>                             |
| 9:45  | <b>CoC Program Models Review</b> – Review and discussion of Prevention and Rapid Exit program models   | - <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i>             |
| 10:30 | <b>Announcements</b>   | - <i>All</i>                             |
| 10:35 | <b>Next Steps</b>  | - <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i> |



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

## **Welcome and Introductions**

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

Staff and Consultants: Shelby Ferguson (H3), Dana Ewing (H3), Caroline Miller (H3), Matt Mitchell (Focus Strategies), Matt Lemon (Focus Strategies)

Additional Attendees: Stephen Krank (Vincentian Support Services), Elissa Villalobos (Catholic Charities), Michael Fischer (H3 Housing and Services Administrator), Jasmine Pita (SHELTER, Inc.), Carl Mason (Hope Solutions), Stephanie Stovall (Contra Costa Health), Jerry Wilburn, Jo Bruno (Delta Peers), Keva Dean (FBCSS Board of Directors)

## **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**

Tony Ucciferri made a motion to approve the minutes from June 15, 2023. Deanne Pearn seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed with five “aye” votes. Teri House abstained.

## **Public Comment**

Jo Bruno stated that Delta Peers is looking to partner on the NOFO process and other work.

## **Accountability Corner:**

Shelby Ferguson reviewed the goals and activities from Quarter 2 related to assessing the impact of the Built for Zero Prevention Learning Cohort work, assessing opportunities for service provider engagement, and iterating on Quarter 1 improvement work. She noted that several were accomplished including reviewing Unsheltered Dashboard and PIT results; receiving presentations including one on a preliminary Coordinated Prevention definition and two on prevention programs in the community; and previewing the program model update process. She stated that assessing opportunities for FY23-24 service provider engagement was not accomplished.

Shelby Ferguson discussed several new needs that were identified including more qualitative data collection, city-level data/geographic analyses, information on community context, and provider-level information. She also noted the Quarter 3 goals including evaluating Year 1 performance-based contracting outcomes for Prevention and Rapid Exit and iterating on previous “Plan-Do-Study-Act” cycles.



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Jo Bruno noted that the Committee got a lot done over the past quarter. Wayne Earl stated that some of the quarter's goals should include reviewing progress on reducing unsheltered homelessness, which is the overarching goal of the Committee.

### **Point in Time StoryMap**

Dana Ewing provided an update on the upcoming StoryMap created in part using PIT Count data. She noted that products using the PIT Count have typically included a large annual report and an infographic that provides basic information that H3 shares with stakeholders including data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness; household types; race/ethnicity; and regional results.

Dana Ewing noted that the StoryMap is close to being released to the public and is a new way to present PIT Count data. She stated that the idea came from some of the discussions and questions raised by the PATH Committee and that the StoryMap links PIT data to other data sources and includes a video from people with lived experience.

Dana Ewing previewed a draft version of the StoryMap including a landing page and six separate sections. The Landing Page describes what the StoryMap shows. Dana Ewing noted that the project was guided in part by the analyses in the book "Homelessness is a Housing Problem." She showed examples of Sections One and Two related to housing and noted that lack of housing availability is a driving factor in homelessness. She stated that the StoryMap compares data from Mississippi, the State of California, and Contra Costa County; shows the gap in available housing units for households at or below extremely low income; and shows vacancy rates and related data.

Dana Ewing previewed Section Three on risk factors related to homelessness including poverty, health/wellness, connections in the community, and racial disparities. She also showed Section Four which includes a video of interviews with people with lived experience titled "R.O.O.T.S – Reflecting On Our Truth and Stories."

Dana Ewing next presented Section Five which includes highlights from PIT count data including the PIT infographic, and Section Six which talks about solutions including a Housing First focus, expanding Prevention and Rapid Exit, expanding case management, and increasing capacity in permanent housing programs.

Wayne Earl thanked H3 for putting the StoryMap together and noted that it represents a substantial amount of work. He stated that he is interested in seeing more about what COVID has done to change the face of unsheltered homelessness compared to sheltered homelessness, including what the populations look like now compared to in the past. He noted that he would like to better understand who we are serving to better understand how to serve them.

Dana Ewing noted that the Annual Report will be coming out soon and will show the population now compared to 2019. She stated this will help to look at shifts related to COVID, housing, and other factors and noted that H3 can do some deeper dives.



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Dana Ewing stated that the StoryMap and Annual Report will be available soon after they are reviewed by the Communications team in the County. She suggested keeping an eye on CoC update emails and will also send an email to the Committee when the resources are available. Jo Bruno suggested adding a QR code to any printed flyers or other publications to increase access.

### **CoC Program Models Review**

Shelby Ferguson presented on the Prevention and Rapid Exit program models. She noted that the equity measures are still being refined and work on setting clear parameters and outcomes will continue.

Shelby Ferguson reviewed information on eligible populations and prioritization methods for the Prevention Program Model. She noted that the programs use HUD funding and thus use the HUD definition of at-risk of homelessness, though there will be discussions about adjusting the definition in the future based on the work of the Prevention Learning Cohort. Wayne Earl noted that the community is becoming less dependent on HUD funding over time and that he is more concerned with what the community needs rather than what HUD funding requires.

Shelby Ferguson discussed CoC capacity and anticipated turnover in the program and noted that capacity estimates should be updated each year. Teri House asked about the definition of the word turnover in this context. Shelby Ferguson stated it means how much capacity the system has and how often programs can take on new referrals. Deanne Pearn suggested looking at capacity based on a snapshot of a moment in time and noted that you can also look at averages over time to see how long people are receiving assistance.

The Committee discussed the relationship between funding amounts and the length of time people receive assistance. Deanne Pearn noted that her organization operates Prevention and that benchmarks are set in part based on community needs and in part based on HUD requirements. She stated that problem solving conversations are often not enough on their own and there usually needs to be some monetary assistance. She estimated the average was around \$2,200. She also noted that it would be helpful to get a better sense of demand in the community.

Carl Mason stated there is great demand for both individuals and families and that they are currently serving more prevention clients than people experiencing homelessness and receive about 25-30 calls per week for support. Teri House and Stephen Krank stated they get a similar number of calls. Wayne Earl noted that the Rescue Mission distributed over one million meals last year and that the demographics served differ from those in shelter. Deanne Pearn stated this is one of the biggest opportunities for the CoC this year and that 211 and other agencies should be involved in the discussion. Jo Bruno noted that folks are calling agencies directly due in part to word of mouth.

Shelby Ferguson discussed staffing in the Prevention Program model and noted it will vary by year depending in part on the amount of funding available. She noted that the model is for each staff person



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to serve 15-20 households per month and that they will be looking at data to see how well actual numbers align with the model.

Shelby Ferguson gave a brief reminder that there are seven Program Models, and each represents a description of how the various models operate and include standard performance measures. She reviewed the Prevention Performance Standards including those related to priority populations per the screening tool, exits to housing or other destinations, and data quality and timeliness.

Wayne Earl asked about the assessment tool being used. Shelby Ferguson noted that currently 211 is using a brief triage tool to determine if people are at imminent risk. Deanne Pearn asked about priority populations. Shelby Ferguson stated that they have not yet been defined but that they will be able to look at priority populations in more detail as more programs come online and when a new assessment tool is in place. Tony Ucciferri noted that the Housing Authority has about 90,000 households on the waitlist in need of rental support. Teri House noted that there will be a survey conducted in January and that it may be possible to add some questions about prevention.

Shelby Ferguson presented the Rapid Exit Program Model and noted this is a newer program that serves people who are currently experiencing homelessness. She stated that the program can provide one-time funding for things like move-in costs and that there are currently two programs in operation that use Housing Security Fund dollars.

Wayne Earl asked if items like furniture to support a move-in could be covered, if people could rent rooms or similar types of housing, and how clients can contact the programs. Shelby Ferguson stated furniture can be covered in some cases but that most payments are for move-in fees, security deposits, and similar expenses. She also stated that rooms rentals are allowed and that the program is very flexible. She noted that people can go through Coordinated Entry to access the program.

Shelby Ferguson discussed staffing and noted the model is that each full-time staff member serves about 8-10 households per month. She also reviewed the Rapid Exit Performance Standards including the percentage of referrals declined; time between enrollment and exit; exits to housing and other destinations; and data quality and timeliness.

Shelby Ferguson reviewed some previous feedback received from the Committee and from a provider survey H3 conducted in May. Some of the concerns raised in the feedback included the expected number to be served, staffing levels, funding levels, referral bottlenecks, efforts to engage landlords, training, and developing equity measures. Wayne Earl noted that the program models can help people who are not involved in the system or who work in other parts of the system to understand what is happening.

Shelby Ferguson reviewed Prevention performance data for FY22-23. She stated that exits to temporary or permanent housing were well above the goal at 98%, there was less than 1% missing data, and 87%



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of data were entered on time. Deanne Pearn noted that successful exits were around \$2,500 per household. Shelby Ferguson noted that the RED Team's data quality dashboard helps with missing data.

Shelby Ferguson reviewed the Rapid Exit performance data for FY22-23. She stated that 15% of referrals are denied and that they had heard some feedback from agencies that many referrals in the early stages were not eligible or would not benefit from Rapid Exit. Tony Ucciferri asked if denials are relating to households that have a housing plan in place. Jo Bruno asked if it was possible to get a breakdown of denials by time. Deanne Pearn stated that many denials are based on documentation challenges. Shelby Ferguson noted that it is possible to look at denials by time and that document readiness is part of housing case management and that other programs are also working on that.

Shelby Ferguson noted that 95% of exits were to temporary or permanent housing and that households coming into Rapid Exit should already have a housing option identified. She also stated that households are enrolled close to 60 days, which is above the goal of 30 days. She stated that they may want to revisit this objective. Tony Ucciferri noted that there are other sectors that can influence the timeline and that the Housing Authority often tells clients it will take 6-8 weeks. Dana Ewing asked what happens to clients for the two months they are waiting for housing. Shelby Ferguson stated that some households are in shelter while others are unsheltered, and that housing navigation is an essential need.

Shelby Ferguson noted that there will be one Rapid Exit provider next year, which is Hope Solutions. She also stated that only 0.1% of data was missing and that about 85% was entered on time.

Shelby Ferguson then discussed next steps including bringing new prevention providers into the system; continuing to provide technical assistance and support to providers; developing a coordinated definition and approach to Prevention; and refining equity measures.

### **Announcements**

No announcements were offered.

### **Next steps**

Matt Mitchell noted that the Committee just entered Quarter 3 and will continue to build on the work done over the last two quarters. The next meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2023.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:53 am.**