



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

## COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

**RECORDING OF MEETING:**

A recording is not available for this meeting.

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
9:30	<b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b>	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b><u>Hybrid Meeting Norms</u></b>	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b><u>Review and Approval of Minutes</u></b>	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b><u>Public Comment</u></b> – Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.	- <i>Members of the public</i>
9:50	<b><u>Prevention Screening Tool</u></b> – Update on development process and timeline for new prevention tool	- <i>Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3</i>
9:55	<b><u>2025 Committee Workplan</u></b> – Review proposed 2025 Workplan	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i>
10:15	<b><u>Action Item: 2025 Committee Workplan Approval</u></b> – Vote on whether to adopt the 2025 workplan as discussed in the meeting	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
10:20	<b><u>Announcements</u></b>	- <i>All</i>
10:25	<b><u>Next Steps</u></b>	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>



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## **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Members in Attendance: Juno Hedrick (virtual), Tony Ucciferri, Shawn Ray, Wayne Earl, Deanne Pearn

Staff and Consultants: Jamie Schecter (H3), Shelby Ferguson (H3), Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald (H3), Matt Lemon (FS), Claire Burrus (FS)

Additional Attendees: Wilanda Hughes, Karen McBride (BACS), Sarah Soto, Yessenia Aguilar (H3), Jo Bruno, Kristin Kane

## **Hybrid Meeting Norms**

Matt Lemon described hybrid meetings norms 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

## **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

## **2025 Committee Workplan** (Note: This item was moved up on the agenda due to staff availability.)

Jamie Schecter reviewed the 2025 Committee workplan. She noted that the workplan outlines the Committee's activities for the year, clarifies connections between those activities and the Committee's objectives, and rolls up to a high-level workplan for the Council on Homelessness.

Jamie Schecter stated that the goals of workplan development include aligning the CoH Committees, maintaining flexibility to iterate, striving for impact, and strategically building on identified priorities. She noted that the strategies in the draft workplan include funding (e.g., implementing and monitoring ERF-funded programs), tools and processes (e.g., reviewing the Unsheltered Data Dashboard), and communication and coordination (e.g., working with stakeholders to explore models of landlord engagement).

Deanne Pearn recommended that any landlord engagement be performed following the development of standards for service providers. She noted that engagement with landlords will be more effective if they have learned to expect a consistent standard of treatment by and responsiveness from service providers.

Wayne Earl offered that different types of owner-renter arrangements will warrant different approaches. For example, someone renting a room will have a different relationship with the property owner than someone living in a large apartment complex. Deanne Pearn agreed and reiterated the need for consistency in engagement and follow up procedures in cases in which landlords need to get in touch



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with service providers, such as when rental payments need to be made by service providers on behalf of clients. Juno Hedrick agreed with the need to build a shared understanding.

Jamie Schecter led a discussion on the overall goal in the draft workplan for the Committee to monitor projects related to the countywide goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness in Contra Costa County by 75%.

Wayne Earl recommended the removal of the goal from the workplan, noting that there are no rewards for meeting the goal nor consequences for not meeting it. Juno Hedrick agreed, sharing that people with lived experience have expressed negative reactions when groups set goals that they know they will not meet. Wayne Earl stated that such goal setting undermines the credibility of the groups.

Tony Ucciferri stated that the goal in the workplan was drawn from state-level goals set by the Governor and was related to the Regional Action Plan. He noted that he understands the urge to remove the goal, especially given that the community is far from meeting it, but also stated that removing the goal may send a message that the group is not being a player in the Regional Action Plan.

Shawn Ray suggested grounding the goal with something concrete. Wayne Earl recommended restructuring the goal to state that it is in support of the Regional Action Plan. Jamie Schecter changed the language of the goal to include alignment with the Regional Action Plan.

Jamie Schecter walked through the annual priorities in the 2025 Committee workplan including reducing unsheltered homelessness, targeting prevention and Rapid Exit resources, and monitoring encampment interventions, shelter flow, and the development of new housing opportunities.

Wayne Earl noted the importance of shelter in offering safety and reducing the trauma of homelessness as housing options are pursued. He noted the lack of sufficient shelter coverage for the local population experiencing homelessness.

Deanne Pearn emphasized the need for increased permanent housing and prevention capacity along with increased shelter capacity in alignment with the 1-2-4 framework outlined in the Regional Action Plan. This framework recommends two permanent housing solutions and four prevention solutions for each shelter bed in the system. Deanne suggested that the PATH Committee focus on shelter and prevention solutions. Wayne Earl agreed. Jamie Schecter edited the fourth priority in the workplan to incorporate this idea.

Tony Ucciferri inquired as to whether addressing substance use in the unsheltered population might be considered as a priority in the workplan. Jamie Schecter recommended pursuing stakeholder engagement with providers that work in behavioral health with the population experiencing homelessness.

Jamie Schecter reviewed the audience section of the workplan. No changes were recommended by the group.



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Jamie Schechter reviewed each quarter's goals and activities for the Committee and working groups as outlined in the draft workplan. Juno Hedrick recommended building stronger partnerships between the PATH Committee and other groups that members of the Committee are also a part of. Jamie Schechter recommended a discussion on which entities the Committee is interested in engaging with throughout the year in the first meeting of 2025.

Wayne Earl expressed interest in building partnerships with the education system. He noted that homelessness is defined differently in school districts than it is in the homelessness sector, and expressed concerns that there is a portion of the homelessness crisis that the Committee does not have information on. Shelby Ferguson recommended requesting one or more presentations from the community's education outreach teams.

Jamie Schechter stated that there will be additional opportunities to adjust the workplan in the future.

**Action Item: 2025 Committee Workplan Approval** (Note: This item was moved up on the agenda due to staff availability.)

Tony Ucciferri made a motion to approve the workplan as discussed in this meeting. Deanne Pearn seconded the motion. Wayne Earl asked if someone would present the workplan at the Council on Homelessness meeting in January 2025. Juno Hedrick expressed interest in presenting to the Council and requested time to review the workplan in advance with H3 staff.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Wayne Earl made a motion to approve the minutes from February 15, 2024. Deanne Pearn seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed with three votes in favor and zero votes against. Shawn Ray and Tony Ucciferri abstained.

### **Prevention Screening Tool**

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald shared that the prevention screening tool was originally planned to roll out this month but will be pushed back to the end of January due to a delay in integrating the tool into HMIS. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald stated that H3 will reach back out to Community Solutions for support in January.

### **Announcements**

Jo Bruno shared that she has been asked by HomeBase to be a panelist with lived experience on a panel discussion on the intersection of homelessness and behavioral health in February 2025.

### **Next Steps**

Matt Lemon stated that the next scheduled meetings are a Working Group meeting on January 16, 2025, a Committee meeting on February 20, 2025, and a Working Group meeting on March 20, 2025.



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**The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.**