



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, November 21st, 2024, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

RECORDING OF MEETING:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/O8TMWXCFkgLZ9JhzoGuwRGXe3o2SXjRcWeZ11P3HbEp3yYM9r02KR-c77pSP0W0.iiSlu6lo4-eelTc>

PASSCODE:

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Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
9:30	Welcome and Introductions	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
	Hybrid Meeting Norms	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
	Review and Approval of Minutes	- <i>Matt Lemon, 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>
9:50	Unsheltered Data Dashboard – Quarterly review of unsheltered metrics	- <i>Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3</i>
10:00	Recap of 2024 Workplan – Review of Committee’s work over the past year	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i>
10:10	2025 Committee Workplan – Review proposed 2025 Workplan	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i>
10:30	Action Item: 2025 Committee Workplan Approval – Vote on whether to adopt the 2025 workplan as discussed in the meeting	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
10:35	Stakeholder Spotlight: CORE – Presentation from CORE on their work	- <i>Fadi Elhayek, CORE</i>
10:50	Announcements	- <i>All</i>
10:55	Next Steps	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>



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Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members in Attendance: Wayne Earl, Juno Hedrick, Deanne Pearn

Staff and Consultants: Jamie Schechter (H3), Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald (H3), Kate Horsting (H3), Matt Lemon (FS), Claire Burrus (FS), Carina Rodriguez-Pena (H3)

Additional Attendees: Fadi Elhayek (CORE/H3), LeAnn Matthews, Jill Ray (Office of Supervisor Candace Andersen), Cynthia Chavez (Shelter Inc.), Alexander Martinez (H3)

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.

Review and Approval of Minutes

This section of the agenda was postponed because the meeting was converted to a Working Group meeting.

Public Comment

This section of the agenda was postponed because the meeting was converted to a Working Group meeting.

Unsheltered Data Dashboard

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald reviewed prevention, rapid exit, and eviction data for the period from July 2024 to September 2024. In the period, 92% of exits from prevention programs were to temporary or permanent housing. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald noted that the County is working with Bay Area Community Services (BACS) to pilot a prevention program that includes a screening tool and application platform.

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald stated that data from the Sheriff's Office shows 326 eviction notices were served from July to September 2024. She noted that this is a decrease compared to the number of evictions from Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 2024.

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald shared that Rapid Exits is a program designed to provide financial assistance to help literally homelessness clients identify housing, and that Hope Solutions is the only provider of Rapid Exit services. Of the 23 program exits that occurred during the quarter, 100% were to temporary or permanent destinations.



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Recap of 2024 Workplan

Jamie Schecter shared activities and progress made during 2024. She noted that the goal of the PATH Committee is to monitor projects related to the countywide goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness in Contra Costa County by 75% in 2024. Jamie Schecter highlighted activities that the PATH Committee worked on throughout the year. Activities related to data reviews and improvements included developing revised metrics and a new format for the Unsheltered Data Dashboard and reviewing results for the Point in Time Count and the Annual Report. Community coordination activities included receiving presentations from 211, the Equity Committee, the Office of Reentry and Justice, and the RYSE Center.

Jamie Schecter also highlighted activities related to monitoring prevention/rapid exit programs and resources to help reduce unsheltered homelessness. The activities included discussing the vision for Coordinated Prevention, reviewing participant satisfaction survey results, reviewing resources available through Measure X and other RFPs, and hearing updates on the Community Solutions grant, Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) grant, and the BACS Pilot.

Jamie Schecter shared some of the progress made during 2024. The County added nearly 100 emergency shelter beds, received a grant from the ERF program, increased the number of participant satisfaction survey responses, and has seen a 173% increase in prevention and diversion services according to the Annual Report. The County also began implementing a pilot of a screening tool with 211 and continued to coordinate with prevention providers.

2025 Committee Workplan

Jamie Schecter presented a draft of the 2025 Committee workplan. She noted that the goals for the draft workplan include aligning with other CoH committees, building in flexibility to iterate, striving for high impact, and strategically building on identified priorities. 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., serving as a thought partner in the development of a Coordinated Prevention approach).

Jamie Schecter walked through the draft 2025 workplan. Quarterly goals include orienting new members, assessing opportunities to monitor shelter and the development of new housing opportunities, monitoring the adoption of a prevention screening tool, and reviewing the status and outcomes of prevention and Rapid Exit programs. Planned activities include reviewing the Unsheltered Data Dashboard, PIT count results, and the Annual Report; advising on the adopting of prevention screening tools; monitoring updates on prevention pilots and shallow subsidies; and meeting with stakeholders to hear about shelter, housing, or other community approaches to address unsheltered homelessness.



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Wayne Earl stated that his experience with an ERF program demonstrated the importance of expanding resources the mental health and substance use disorder services to support people while they wait for housing, as well as the importance of expanding housing resources. He noted that monitoring these supports in both sheltered and unsheltered situations complements and expands on the Committee's work monitoring prevention programs. Jamie Schechter stated that it could be helpful to have the CORE team provide an update on Encampment Resolution projects in Quarter 2 or Quarter 3 of 2025.

Jill Ray shared that she would like the Committee's work to include a focus on people coming out of incarceration. She noted that there are programs funded through AB109 and that the County is working with the state prison system to soft launch a program to provide supports for people returning to the community from state prison. Jamie Schechter added an activity to hear updates on AB109 funds to the workplan for Quarter 3.

Jamie Schechter noted that the Committee can revisit the workplan at the next meeting.

Action Item: 2025 Committee Workplan Approval

This section of the agenda was postponed because the meeting was converted to a Working Group meeting.

Stakeholder Spotlight: CORE

Fadi Elhayek provided a presentation on CORE mobile outreach including projects supported by ERF grants. He stated that CORE operated 7 days a week from 8 am to 12 am and has 22 teams working across the county. He shared that the teams are dispatched through 211 or through direct communication with service providers and the outreach teams build relationships, conduct needs assessments, and provide supports for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. He stated that CORE serves as a "front door" to services including physical and behavioral health, shelter and warming centers, encampment abatement, transportation to appointments, connections to community resources (e.g., benefits, legal services, employment services), and housing placements.

Fadi Elhayek stated that H3 and CORE's work is aligned with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness's strategies to address encampments humanely and effectively. He noted that the strategies are organized in six categories including equity, crisis response, collaboration, housing and support, data and evidence, and prevention. He also stated that CORE uses several best practices in the street outreach work, including using a co-response model in partnership with law enforcement, harm reduction, respecting space, employing rapid resolution and family reunification efforts, providing timely notices of abatement, and coordinating with shelter providers to hold beds.



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Fadi Elhayek suggested that Committee members and others review the Contra Costa County Homeless Encampment Action Protocol, which was last updated in October 2024. He stated that the Protocol can help guide requests for support to address encampments.

Fadi Elhayek shared some impacts of ERF funded programs. He noted that the Castro encampment in Richmond was cleared in partnership with law enforcement and a site-based contractor that provides services and security. He stated that 104 people were served at the encampment between August 2023 and March 2024. He shared the demographics of encampment residents which showed that 29% were experiencing homelessness for the first time, 64% were experiencing chronic homelessness, 73% reported having a disabling condition, and 25% were survivors of domestic violence.

Fadi Elhayek shared updates on the ERF-2 project currently underway. CORE is coordinating with the City of Richmond and the Richmond Community Foundation to address encampments. The project provides interim housing at three hotel sites and is currently working on permanent housing goals with about 35 individuals. He also shared plans for the ERF-3 project which will expand services in the City of San Pablo. The project is intended to serve at least 50 individuals at an encampment that has been in place for about 12 years. He noted that there will be a dedicated CORE team providing services and that the team will coordinate with the City, law enforcement, and medical professionals.

Wayne Earl expressed appreciation for the work that CORE does in the community. Jill Ray asked for an update on how CORE is serving detention facilities. Fadi Elhayek stated that a CORE team focused on reentry started at the beginning of the fiscal year and is funded from AB109. He noted that the team has placed 19 individuals into treatment programs or shelter and that they are hoping to get more referrals from the Probation department.

LeAnn Matthes shared that her friend recently got housing through the CORE program and expressed gratitude for the CORE team's work. Jamie Schecter shared that the Committee will receive more updates on ERF projects over the coming year, including updates on funding for modular shelter units that will help permanently expanding shelter capacity.

Announcements

Wayne Earl shared that the Bay Area Rescue Mission is expanding transitional housing for graduates of a residential program. Deanne Pearn shared that Hope Solutions is opening their first cottage community (and the first in the county) land for six seniors, with a grand opening on December 10th. She noted that the community is on faith-owned land and provides dignified permanent supportive housing with intensive support services.



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Next Steps

Jamie Shecter stated that the next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2024 and that H3 will reach out to Committee members to determine availability.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.