



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

## COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

**RECORDING OF MEETING:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/UKQWpmDDq0jLFykIxYvAyIVCO7bELtzHGxA\\_D7McaFP6bTME3VXNaRDOblmD2uF4.vuDsVI9nTTDu662n](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/UKQWpmDDq0jLFykIxYvAyIVCO7bELtzHGxA_D7McaFP6bTME3VXNaRDOblmD2uF4.vuDsVI9nTTDu662n)

**PASSCODE:**

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Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
9:30	<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>
9:50	<b>2024 Committee Workplan</b> – Review and vote on whether to approve 2024 Workplan	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i>
10:10	<b>System Reporting Metrics</b> – Review of existing metrics used in other reporting efforts that may inform Unsheltered Data Dashboard revisions	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i>
10:30	<b>Stakeholder Spotlight: 211</b> – Presentation from 211 on prevention implementation and expansion	- <i>Justin Jarratt, 211</i>
10:50	<b>Announcements</b>	- <i>All</i>
10:55	<b>Next Steps</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>



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## **Welcome and Introductions**

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

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

Additional Attendees: Justin Jarratt (Contra Costa Crisis Center), Jill Ray (Office of Supervisor Candace Andersen), Jo Bruno (Delta Peers, Council on Homelessness), Jeanette Vargas (Employment and Human Services Adult and Aging SSI Advocacy Services)

## **Hybrid Meeting Norms**

Matt Mitchell 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.

**Stakeholder Spotlight: 211** (Note: This item was moved up in the agenda due to staff availability.)

Justin Jarratt presented an overview of the work conducted by the Contra Costa Crisis Center (Center). He stated that the Center runs the 211 and 988 phone lines and also offers other services including grief support, community outreach, smoking cessation, assistance with disaster response, providing information/assistance on hate crimes, support for clients discharged from psychiatric emergency rooms, and answering after hours calls for child and adult protective services. The Center also provides connections to and maintains a database of resources for children aged 0 – 5 with behavioral or developmental concerns. Justin Jarratt noted that the Center distributes flyers across the County to advertise their services, offers training on their services and resource databases, and has volunteer opportunities available.

Justin Jarratt noted that 211 services have been operating since 2005. In addition to answering calls, the Center maintains an online Resource Directory with information on over 1,800 different resources. He stated that 211 provides some Coordinated Entry support and works closely with CORE and CARE agencies. 211 can enter participants into HMIS and make referrals. He stated they support Homelessness Prevention and Diversion services and use a series of questions developed in partnership with H3 and providers to identify and support people at imminent risk of homelessness. He noted that they have connected at least 83 people to prevention services so far in 2024.

Deanne Pearn noted that 211 does a lot of things and asked about capacity and resources. Justin Jarratt stated that the Center received about 70,000 calls last year and has paid staff and over 100 volunteers. He noted that they do rely on community support to ensure they can answer the volume of calls they receive. He stated they are able to answer over 90% of calls to the crisis line (988) within 60 seconds and that 211 calls are typically answered within a few minutes.



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The Committee asked about how the Center experiences and refers clients in different situations. Deanne Pearn asked about the prevention process and Jamie Schecter asked about how 211 navigates clients to either Coordinated Entry or alternative prevention services. Shawn Ray asked about services for people who will be exiting from corrections systems.

Justin Jarratt noted that the Center partners closely with CORE and that callers can press “3” to speak directly with CORE staff. He noted that 211 can also spend time working with clients on problem solving or identifying other resources like food or mental health supports. He stated that 211 staff will ask screening questions to identify those at imminent risk of homelessness including people who have received an eviction notice or unlawful detainer. Those who are at imminent risk can be referred to Coordinated Entry, while those who are in other situations can be referred to other resources like Seasons of Sharing. Justin Jarratt stated that they often get calls from people who have just exited from corrections systems or their family members and can refer them to services like the Reentry Success Center.

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

Wayne Earl made a motion to approve from October 19, 2023. Deanne Pearn seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 3-0 (Juno Hedrick was not present for the vote).

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

### **2024 Committee Workplan**

Jamie Schecter presented and led a discussion on the draft 2024 Committee Workplan. She noted that the workplan outlines activities for the year and includes strategies related to funding; tools and processes; and communication and coordination. She stated the workplan should be in alignment with work in other CoH committees, be flexible and dynamic, strive for high but achievable impact, and strategically build on identified priorities.

The Committee discussed ways to engage more fully with agencies and other partners working in behavioral health, healthcare, criminal justice, and related systems. Wayne Earl stated the Committee should be more strategic about partnerships in the community, particularly around substance use and addiction services. Shawn Ray stated that the Committee should be discussing issues like addiction and reentry services at every meeting, including how to better work with and understand services available in jails. He stated he would like the Committee to look at what systems are in place, how health and safety codes are enforced, and similar topics. Jill Ray stated that more collaboration between systems can be a piece of the puzzle to help people transition and that it is important to hear directly from people doing the work on the ground.



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Committee members and other attendees expressed that substance use, addiction, and homelessness should not be criminalized. Wayne Earl expressed a need for positive pressures to help people transform. Deanne Pearn stated that there is a need for both housing and services and that while there is some housing funding, identifying funding for services can be more challenging. She noted that the Committee could look into things like better transition planning and identifying system-wide check-in points. Jo Bruno noted that the discussions could focus on the theme of recovery. Shawn Ray stated that he would like to see the Committee be more powerful on these issues.

Juno Hedrick stated that these conversations are nuanced and there should be a place to talk about them. Deanne Pearn expressed interest in having a working group or other forum to discuss the criminal/legal system and mental health. Shelby Ferguson and Juno Hedrick noted that there are similar discussions happening in the Equity Committee and there may be opportunities for cross-pollination.

Jamie Schecter stated that the conversation is appreciated and helps the Committee define its agenda. She noted that the Committee intentionally focuses on housing in part because while communities across the country also have behavioral health challenges, homelessness is higher in California because of housing costs. She stated that they partner with behavioral health and other sectors and that the workplan can include more focus on bringing in other partners to learn about and help coordinate with the work being done.

The Committee discussed potential partners or agencies to work with. Shawn Ray noted that the Committee should work to bring behavioral health to the table in a more robust way. Deanne Pearn stated that CalAIM resources are developing, but that providers have not yet seen the benefits. Jamie Schecter noted that they could work on bringing the Contra Costa Health Plan to present on CalAIM and could also reach out to Kaiser Permanente, as they are providing services in the community. She also noted that the Committee could consider tracking metrics related to these topics.

Jamie Schecter stated that they hear that stakeholder presentations this year should include behavioral health, probation, and other sectors. She noted that she updated priority four in the draft workplan to include coordinating and communicating with innovative community approaches to address unsheltered homelessness, including re-entry populations, people who use substances, and/or who have mental health conditions. She stated that the workplan is meant to be flexible and high-level and can give us options to talk about the issues discussed today.

### **Approval of Workplan**

Shawn Ray made a motion to approve the workplan. Deanne Pearn seconded the motion. Wayne Earl stated that he wanted to recognize Jo Bruno's comment in the chat about the importance of peer support. Juno Hedrick stated agreement that an underlying theme to discuss is recovery and noted that could be explicitly mentioned in the workplan. Matt Mitchell stated that the document is designed to be flexible and can be updated based on the work of the Committee. The motion passed unanimously.



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## **System Reporting Metrics**

Jamie Schecter presented an overview of other reporting metrics that can help inform thinking about the Unsheltered Data Dashboard. She summarized seven system performance metrics developed by HUD in 2015 that all CoCs must report on, including length of time homeless, returns to homelessness, and positive housing outcomes. She also presented an example of how household exits are reported in the Prevention Performance Dashboard.

Wayne Earl stated that the HUD system performance measures may capture things outside the control of the CoC, like housing prices or general economic health and asked what they are used for. Jamie Schecter noted that the measures are used by HUD to inform some funding decisions and are used at the local level to help identify trends and understand program impacts. However, she noted that the system performance measures are not set up in a way that helps understand differences across sub-populations and that they do reflect any data on folks who are not connected to the system.

Wayne Earl stated that he would like to see demographic data comparing people in encampments to those in shelter to help better identify how needs may differ.

Jamie Schecter asked members to think about which metrics would be useful to review in the future and whether there were any other external data sources (such as the University of California San Francisco's recent statewide analysis of homelessness) that could inform potential revisions the Unsheltered Data Dashboard.

## **Announcements**

No announcements were provided due to time.

## **Next Steps**

Jamie Schecter noted that the next workgroup meetings are on March 21, 2024, and April 18, 2024.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.**