



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

## MINUTES

**DATE:**

Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

**RECORDING OF MEETING:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/PXuSWMBFfA1aRNlrXzuzWXWijNTI--5gnEj8Mxlry-1ayl-mmGL-YVpVITVr67ao.jDa8B492SKckk8IF?startTime=1737048606000>

**PASSCODE:**

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Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
9:30	<b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b>	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b><u>Working Group Meeting Norms</u></b>	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
9:45	<b><u>2025 Workplan Review</u></b> – Overview of 2025 Committee Workplan	- <i>Jamie Schechter, H3</i>
9:55	<b><u>Review of Program Models</u></b> – Overview of shelter, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and voucher programs	- <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i>
10:30	<b><u>Monitoring and Engagement Opportunities</u></b> – Discussion of topics and groups that the Committee would like to engage with during the year	- <i>Jamie Schechter, H3</i>
10:50	<b><u>Announcements</u></b>	- <i>All</i>
10:55	<b><u>Next Steps</u></b>	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>



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

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Members in Attendance: Tony Ucciferri, Juno Hedrick, Shawn Ray

Staff and Consultants: Jamie Schecter (H3), Shelby Ferguson (H3), Janel Fletcher (H3), Matt Lemon (Focus Strategies), Claire Burrus (Focus Strategies)

Additional Attendees: Gerry La Londe-Berg (Richmond Commission on Aging Appointee), Wendy Fabian (Field Representative for Assemblymember Lori Wilson), Jill Ray (Office of Supervisor Candace Andersen), Evon Ufland, Brianna Ramos, Cheryl Sudduth, Hope Dixon

## **Meeting Norms**

Matt Lemon described norms for virtual meetings including raising your hand (virtually), saying your name before speaking, and maintaining a safe and respectful environment. Individuals who behave in a manner that threatens safety or does not align with norms may be asked to leave.

## **2025 Workplan Review**

Jamie Schecter reviewed the 2025 PATH Committee Workplan, which was approved by the Council on Homelessness on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Strategies in the workplan include funding, tools and processes, and communication and coordination with other groups. The goal of the committee as outlined in the workplan is to monitor projects related to the countywide goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness in Contra Costa County in alignment with the Regional Action Plan.

Jamie Schecter provided a detailed review of the annual priorities and quarterly goals and activities outlined in the 2025 PATH Committee Workplan. Annual priorities include reducing unsheltered homelessness, targeting prevention and rapid exit resources to overrepresented groups, and monitoring encampment intervention services, shelter flow and capacity and the development of new housing opportunities.

Gerry La Londe-Berg inquired about the availability of data regarding the housing inventory in the community. Jamie Schecter directed group members to reports available on the H3 website for more information and indicated that much of the information about housing inventory and the number of people housed over time is available on an annual basis.

## **Review of Program Models**

Shelby Ferguson presented a review of the program models for programs available in the Contra Costa County Continuum of Care. These program models were adopted by the Council on Homelessness in July 2022 and cover seven interventions utilized to address homelessness locally: Homelessness prevention, Rapid Exit, CARE Centers, Outreach, Shelter, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing.



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Shelby Ferguson provided an overview of the homelessness prevention program model, which is a strategy utilized to keep people from experiencing literal homelessness for the first time or from returning to homelessness after being permanently housed. This program type includes housing problem solving and financial assistance services and is available through 2-1-1 referral. Households eligible for this program type include those who meet the HUD definition of “at risk” for homelessness, unless the funding source for the program allows for more flexibility. Shelby specified that the decision to expand homelessness prevention eligibility to a wider pool of applicants based on funding source flexibility was made by the PATH Committee.

Shelby Ferguson detailed the Rapid Exit program model, which is similar to homelessness prevention but is intended to resolve homelessness for people who are experiencing literal homelessness as opposed to preventing literal homelessness from occurring. Shelby noted that Rapid Exit eligibility is limited to literally homeless households who have a housing solution identified. Referrals to Rapid Exit occur through CORE, CARE Centers and shelters. Services include trauma-informed housing problem solving and financial assistance.

Shelby Ferguson outlined the program model for CARE Centers in the community. CARE Centers serve as Coordinated Entry access points for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and provide basic needs services such as meals, showers, laundry and housing-focused case management. Although the primary target population is people who are unsheltered, people who are precariously housed also access basic needs services at CARE Centers. Referrals can occur through 2-1-1, CORE or through self-referral.

Shelby Ferguson provided an overview of the outreach program model in the Contra Costa County Continuum of Care. Similarly to CARE Centers, outreach programs serve as Coordinated Entry access points for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and can support these individuals in meeting their basic needs. Eligibility for outreach services is limited to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, however, and can only be accessed through CORE dispatch, which occurs through 2-1-1. Services offered through outreach programs include the provision of supplies such as blankets and tents, and housing problem solving services.

Shelby Ferguson detailed the shelter program model, through which trauma-informed, safe interim housing is provided for people experiencing literal homelessness. The shelter program model also includes housing focused case management, two meals per day and prohibits the implementation of any length of stay criteria. In Contra Costa County, priority for shelter access is given to families, seniors (ages 62 and above) and people living with multiple disabling conditions. Shelter referrals primarily occur through Coordinated Entry, however some shelters in the system allow for self-referrals.

Shelby Ferguson outlined the program model for Rapid Rehousing programs in the community. Rapid Rehousing is intended to permanently house people experiencing literal homelessness through housing location, move-in assistance, trauma-informed supportive services, and medium-term housing subsidies that taper over time. Rapid Rehousing programs are required to utilize the Housing First model,



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incorporate the Critical Time Intervention approach into case management, support clients with securing income and the housing location search process, and conduct follow up assessments with clients to track their progress throughout program enrollment. Referrals to Rapid Rehousing occur through the Coordinated Entry system and are designated for clients on the community queue.

Gerry La Londe-Berg inquired about the availability of housing support options for people on fixed incomes. Gerry emphasized the need for long term assistance for people unable to increase their income in the community. Shelby Ferguson offered that Section 8 vouchers can be utilized long-term, and Rapid Rehousing programs often find creative solutions to house people on fixed incomes such as shared housing options.

Shelby Ferguson provided an overview of the Permanent Supportive Housing program model. Permanent Supportive Housing programs are intended to permanently house the most vulnerable people in the community with permanent rental subsidies and supportive services. Eligibility for Permanent Supportive Housing is limited to chronically homeless individuals and families with documented permanent disabling conditions. Permanent Supportive Housing programs are required to follow the Housing First model, offer supportive services available to clients on a voluntary basis, ensure that participants pay no more than 30% of their income towards rent, and offer housing location services as applicable. Referrals to Permanent Supportive Housing programs occur through the Coordinated Entry system and are designated for clients on the community queue.

Wendy Fabian asked whether there is baseline data available regarding the geographic origin of people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Jamie Schecter shared that there is some data on this topic available on the data webpage of the H3 website, including where people lost their housing.

### **Monitoring and Engagement Opportunities**

Jamie Schecter noted the presence of stakeholder engagement in the 2025 PATH Committee Workplan. She indicated that these stakeholder engagements offer an opportunity to collect “on the ground” information about the programs operating in the community. Jamie shared that in 2024, the PATH Committee heard presentations from H3, 2-1-1, the Equity Committee, the Community Advisory Board, Bay Area Community Services (BACS), the RYSE Center, and CORE. The topics covered in these presentations included encampment resolution, coordinated prevention, re-entry, and direct cash transfer programs.

Jamie Schecter asked working group meeting attendees to share which groups, if any, they would be interested in inviting to present to the PATH Committee in 2025. Jamie also asked if there are any topics beyond those detailed in the 2025 PATH Committee Workplan that the group would like to have covered in stakeholder presentations to the committee in 2025. Topics included in the workplan include prevention, rapid exit, shelter, housing and other community approaches.



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Juno Hedrick recommended that the Youth Advisory Board be invited to provide a presentation to the PATH Committee in 2025.

Gerry La Londe-Berg recommended that the UCSF Bennioff Group and the Turner Center be invited to give stakeholder presentations. Gerry shared that the Turner Center might be able to present on shared housing or social housing models. Gerry also recommended that the group reach out to immigrant support organizations.

Hope Dixon recommended that the Committee invite groups offering services to K-12 students experiencing homelessness to present to the committee. Brianna Ramos asked whether any local organizations offer shared living housing options for families. Hope Dixon offered that Bay Area Rescue has recently established a section of their shelter for families with children that the group might be interested in reaching out to.

Shawn Ray expressed interest in hearing presentations from CORE and from providers involved in providing treatment to people with substance abuse issues through Proposition 36. Juno Hedrick also expressed interest in learning more about behavioral health and mental health services in the community.

Jill Ray recommended that the committee invite navigators funded by Measure X to present to the committee. Jill offered to connect with Jamie Schecter following the working group meeting to provide contact information for this group of navigators.

### **Announcements**

Jamie Schecter reminded the group that the Point in Time Count will be occurring on January 30, 2025, in Contra Costa County. Jamie noted that this will be an observational count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Jamie shared that the last training that would be offered for the upcoming Point in Time Count would be taking place on January 17, 2025. She clarified that attending training is required for participation in the Point in Time Count.

There were no other announcements offered.

### **Next Steps**

Matt Lemon stated that the next PATH meeting will be a committee meeting on February 20, 2025. In addition, working group meetings are scheduled for March 20, 2025, and April 17, 2025.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:22 am.**