



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, October 17th, 2024, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

RECORDING OF MEETING:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/component-page?action=viewdetailpage&sharelevel=meeting&useWhichPasswd=meeting&clusterId=us02&componentName=need-password&meetingId=ygvzApkkfXb92hwcSBADDKUO9kpJkhFLD9HcyeiYkfkUDWeQuS_fy1X-SvZhNFmH.Zz7e7-qmTOPx3NCc&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2F9Q7BicXXK0qBe7UuV3croFBpM2hngCsECK0-41P3QgTM8SbomSFYv5GXIQI7Dglu.44d5HZ74ntCqSiew

PASSCODE:

!SZkc5+r

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
9:30	Welcome and Introductions	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
	Working Group Meeting Norms	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>
9:50	Review of 2025 Workplan – Discussion of draft workplan and strategies	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i>
10:10	Coordinated Prevention & Prioritization Pilot Updates – Receive update on Coordinated Prevention efforts & proposed pilot prioritization of applicants for prevention resources.	- <i>Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3</i>
10:25	Request for Proposal (RFP) Updates – Review of available resources and RFP process	- <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i>
10:35	Provider Spotlight: RYSE Center - Direct Cash Transfers as Prevention (DCT-P)	- <i>Caroline Miller, H3</i> - <i>Kanwarpal Dhaliwal, RYSE Center</i>
10:50	Announcements	- <i>All</i>
10:55	Next Steps	- <i>Matt Lemon, Focus Strategies</i>



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Welcome and Introductions

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

Staff and Consultants: Jamie Schecter (H3), Kate Horsting (H3), Shelby Ferguson (H3), Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald (H3), Brittany Ferguson (H3), Caroline Miller (H3), Carina Rodriguez-Pena (H3). Matt Lemon (FS), Claire Burrus (FS)

Other Attendees: Kanwarpal Dhaliwal, Justin Jarratt, Leslie Gleason, Ash Hyatt, Cynthia Chavez, Lonnie Holmes, Brianna Ramos, Lea Murray, Rachel Rosekind

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.

Review of 2025 Workplan

Jamie Schecter presented a slide deck orienting the group to the workplan development process. She presented several potential strategies the group could consider focusing on in the upcoming year, as well as the goals and guidelines of the workplan development process. Potential strategies included funding, tools and processes, and communication and coordination. Jamie Schecter encouraged the group to provide feedback, align with the work of other committees and groups when possible, keep the workplan high level, set ambitious goals, and build upon already established priorities and strategies.

Wayne Earl proposed that the group identify an alternative to the previously used workplan goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness in the County by 75%. He expressed concerns about the PATH Committee's ability to make progress toward the goal. Tony Ucciferri agreed with Wayne's assessment of the group's ability to affect change on total unsheltered homelessness.

Deanne Pearn noted that the 75% goal was from the All Home Regional Action Plan. Deanne shared that she believed unsheltered homelessness was still an appropriate focus area for the PATH Committee, however, and that a concrete goal was a helpful tool for guiding the work of the group. She suggested that the group could monitor work done to address unsheltered homelessness, such as homelessness prevention and innovations in shelter services. Jamie Schecter added a potential item regarding shelter flow monitoring in the annual priorities section of the draft 2025 workplan.



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wayne Earl suggested an additional focus on addressing substance use within the homelessness prevention strategy. Deanne Pearn and Shawn Ray agreed that mental health, behavioral health, and substance use were priority issues in the effort to prevent and address homelessness in the community. Deanne also emphasized the need for expanded housing inventory in order to prevent and address homelessness, noting that Contra Costa County was over 34,000 units short in affordable housing inventory for low and extremely low-income households.

The group expressed interest in the housing development process. Jamie Schecter noted that this is not an area that the Continuum of Care and H3 typically lead on. She offered that H3 might connect the Committee to entities working in these areas if there is interest. She added an item to this effect in the annual priorities section of the draft 2025 workplan.

Jo Bruno raised the potential utility of the Amplifiers List of providers and other community groups with ongoing contact with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in meeting the PATH Committee's goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness. Jamie Schecter suggested that the PATH Committee might consider using the Amplifier List or a similar strategy to coordinate outreach to people at risk of and experiencing homelessness.

Jamie Schecter informed the group that H3 would return to the PATH Committee in the November meeting with a new version of the draft 2025 workplan with the notes from this meeting's discussion incorporated for further discussion.

Coordinated Prevention and Prioritization Pilot Updates

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald provided an update to the group on the rollout of a new prioritization tool for use in the coordinated prevention process. Mary first provided some background and context on the recent progress of coordinated prevention work in the community. She shared that H3, in collaboration with providers in the community and the technical assistance provider Community Solutions, has identified a prevention prioritization tool to pilot.

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald shared that the pilot tool has been designed to simplify the homelessness prevention selection process, prioritize households with the greatest barriers to housing, and prioritize groups that are experiencing homelessness at disproportionate rates in the community. The tool includes many factors including housing loss timeline, history of homelessness, rental and subsidy history, eviction history, income, criminal justice system involvement, health, household composition and equity.

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald announced that the prevention prioritization tool pilot will begin in November 2024, and that H3 is currently working to set up the tool in the HMIS system and is planning a training which will be offered to 2-1-1 and Coordinated Entry prevention providers. H3 plans to monitor pilot



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

data throughout the first two quarters of 2025 and will collect feedback from providers in monthly prevention meetings.

Leslie Gleason recommended that Care Center providers be included in the training offered, as it would be helpful for them to know how to set realistic expectations with prevention applicants that they serve. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald clarified that the workflow of the referral connection process would not be changing with the new tool.

Tony Ucciferri asked if the pilot prevention prioritization tool would replace the VI-SPDAT. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald clarified that the two tools serve different purposes in the homelessness response system. The VI-SPDAT, which is currently used as the local Housing Needs Assessment, is used for the prioritization of people already experiencing homelessness for supportive housing programs, while the prevention tool will be used to prioritize people at risk of homelessness for prevention programs. Mary informed the group that H3 is currently designing a new Housing Needs Assessment tool which will replace the VI-SPDAT in the local Coordinated Entry System. Mary invited anyone interested in learning more about that project to attend the Oversight Committee meeting on October 17, 2024.

Jo Bruno inquired about the changes that will occur with the implementation of the pilot prevention tool in November. Jo asked whether exiting applicants would be prioritized for resources. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald clarified that there would not be any new Prevention resources becoming available in November, but rather new questions asked in the application process.

Request for Proposal (RFP) Updates

Shelby Ferguson provided a presentation of the Consolidated Housing and Homelessness Request for Proposals available through H3. She encouraged anyone interested to please visit the Funding page under the Continuum of Care tab of the Contra Costa Health website to read more about several opportunities available. She shared that a recording of a recent information session as well as a Frequently Asked Questions list were available on the webpage. She informed the group that office hours would be offered on October 21, 2024, and November 4, 2024, for interested people to ask any additional questions. Responses to the Request for Proposals opportunity will be due by November 22, 2024.

Shelby Ferguson informed the group that H3 was awarded \$5.7 in Encampment Resolution Funding to address a specific encampment in San Pablo. Activities to be performed include outreach, interim housing, administration of flex funds, rapid rehousing and shallow subsidies.

Leslie Gleason asked whether there was an established group of people of a certain size at the San Pablo encampment, or whether the resident population changed over time. Shelby Ferguson replied that the encampment in San Pablo was relatively static and included about fifty to sixty people. Shelby stated that the team did not expect many new residents of the encampment, if any. Shelby shared that the site



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

would be secured as a part of the encampment resolution process, and that people already residing in the encampment would be served quickly.

Shawn Ray shared that his team patrols and cleans the San Pablo encampment area periodically. He agreed that the residents are a static group, and shared that he thinks that this dedicated funding offers the opportunity for a great program model.

Provider Spotlight: RYSE Center - Direct Cash Transfers as Prevention (DCT-P)

Caroline Miller introduced the spotlight presentation by the RYSE center. She shared that H3 has been working with several youth-specific providers in the community to improve the youth system of care, including work with the Youth Action Board.

Kanwarpal Dhaliwal with the RYSE Center provided a presentation on their Direct Cash Transfer for Homelessness Prevention program. She began with an introduction to the RYSE Center, including the racial justice and liberation lens that the center operates within, and the commitment of the organization to returning resources to communities and targeting finite resources to maximize impact. Kanwarpal shared that the RYSE Center launched a Youth Disbursement Fund in 2020, and that these funds are now a standing line item in the center's annual budget.

Kanwarpal Dhaliwal noted that the RYSE Center's Direct Cash Transfer for Homelessness Prevention program started as a pilot project between Point Source Youth, a national youth services organization, and Tipping Point, a local funder. The high-level goals of this project were to prevent homelessness for youth in the community, to generate evidence of program success to promote the sustainability of the program long-term, and continuous improvement of the program.

Kanwarpal Dhaliwal shared that the Direct Cash Transfer for Homelessness Prevention program is a one-time payment and case management program intended to prevent a young person from experiencing homelessness. Eligibility for the program is determined based on homelessness risk. The program is not intended for youth who are actively homeless, but rather those who are doubled up, couch surfing, fleeing or navigating domestic violence or trafficking, are at imminent risk of homelessness, living with a family member or are in a communal living situation.

Kanwarpal Dhaliwal shared that the Direct Cash Transfer for Homelessness Prevention program occurs in a few steps, starting with housing crisis intervention, followed by the cash payment and provision of "plus" services such as case management, connections to long term benefits, mediation and other services as needed. The program intends to serve between seventy-five and one hundred people between February and June 2025.

Kanwarpal Dhaliwal acknowledged the many stakeholders and community partners that have supported the development of the Direct Cash Transfer for Homelessness Prevention program, including RYSE and the Contra Costa Community College District in the implementation of the program. Other key groups



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

include Point Source Youth as the national convener for the program, Tipping Point as the funded, Johns Hopkins University offering research support, and System Change Partners and the Luminare Group offering evaluation services.

Kanwarpal Dhaliwal shared several key insights that the RYSE Center has gleaned from their involvement in local homelessness prevention efforts. The RYSE Center is committed to learning over the course of program implementation, and intends to remain flexible and responsive to how, when, and to whom funds are distributed in order to maximize the positive impact of the program for its recipients. RYSE would also like to advocate for additional investment, advocacy and accountability in the effort to prevent and address youth homelessness across the community.

Announcements

Jamie Schecter recommended that everyone ensure that they are registered to vote and to make their voices heard. There were no other announcements offered.

Next Steps

Matt Lemon stated that the next PATH meeting will be a Committee meeting on November 21, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:02am.