

**HOPE Interagency Council (IAC) Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021**

Present: Supervisor Horsley, Paul Bains, Mary Bier, Matthew Chidester, Teri Chin, Sandy Council, Brian Greenberg, Mark Nagales, Kate Comfort Harr, Ken Cole, Melissa Platte, Peggy Jensen

Guests: Christiana Weidanz, Cindy Chan, Carrie Dallman, Marci Dragun, Lissette Espinoza-Garnica, Princess Futrell, Sofia Recalde, Jessica Silverberg, Tammie Sweetser, Ana Morales, Joanna Bell, Matthew Hayes, Rozeena Jhinnu, Tracy Choi, Irving Torres, Gini Lilani

Topic	Discussion
Zoom overview and meeting logistics	In recognition of the CDC’s “social distancing” guidelines which discourage public gatherings, the Governor suspended certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act to allow local legislative bodies to conduct their meetings telephonically or by other electronic means. In San Mateo County, the HOPE IAC meeting will be shifting to an online electronic meeting forum in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order. A brief overview of using Zoom videoconferencing was given
Welcome Supervisor Horsley	Supervisor Horsley called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Supervisor Horsley shared that the Shores Landing topic will not be discussed at today’s meeting and will be postponed to a future meeting agenda.
Public Comment	Public comment made by Irving Torres, Director of Community Engagement at All Home. Mr. Torres introduced himself and expressed his hope to present the All Home Regional Action Plan at a future meeting.
Approval of Minutes	Vote was conducted on May 12, 2021 Minutes. Motion made by Matthew Chidester to approve May 12, 2021 minutes; motion seconded made by Teri Chin. Member vote: Paul Bains – yea Brian Greenberg – yea Mary Bier – yea Matthew Chidester – yea Teri Chin – yea Ken Cole – yea Kate Comfort Harr – yea Sandy Council – yea Melissa Platte – yea Supervisor Horsley – yea Peggy Jensen – yea Mark Nagales – yea Motion passed.
Emergency Rental Assistance Program Updates	Ken presented an overview of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). Program was recently redesigned as of July 1. Biggest changes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of back rent and utilities paid. Prior version was 80%.

Ken Cole (Human Services Agency)

- Protections extended through 9/30/21
- Total budget available for rent relief in SMC (ERA 1) = \$45,348,785
- Visit HousingisKey.com – has been significantly streamlined for both landlord and renter

Eligible Costs

- Unpaid rent can go as far back as 4/1/20. Same for utilities.
- Program also going forward month by month if households are having difficulty with rent due to COVID-19

To apply or determine eligibility:

- Community members can find information on the ERAP website created by the County (smcrentrelief.com) or directly at the state's site, HousingisKey.com

Additional funding from Board of Supervisors for application assistance/outreach and for those who are ineligible for state program.

Review of ERAP data (as of 8/8/21)

- 4,466 total applications
- 845 total households assisted
- Total utilities requested = \$2,747,774
- Total rent requested = \$47,727,701
- Total rent obligated and paid = \$12,803,703

County's Office of Community Affairs rental relief outreach plan

- County website has been updated recently with application samples, social media graphics, Housing is Key link graphic for website, and other resources for public use
- Focusing on simple key messages; strategies include: in person outreach, various media, video/radio campaign, community partnerships, print collateral, and more
- Many of the resources available in multiple languages

ERA 2

- Approx. \$35M, cumulative between both ERAs is approx. \$70M
- Still working through details on what state will do and how they will structure the funds

Mark Nagales shared experiences working with the ERAP program and that it's important for both tenants and landlords to be aware of the resource and to apply for assistance.

County Initiatives on Homelessness

Peggy Jensen (County Manager's Office)

Peggy presented an overview of two County initiatives on homelessness: 1) Working Together to End Homelessness in San Mateo County and 2) the Navigation Center. Working Together to End Homelessness Convening

- Reviewed 4 primary objectives of the Working Together to End Homelessness convening to create support for a comprehensive, countywide approach to housing all our homeless residents
- Want attendees to understand experience with lived experience, build community connections, learn from each other, keep attendees engaged, build foundation for financial contributions, listen/get input for 2022 Ending Homelessness Action Plan, launch countywide collaborative effort
- Goal is 300 attendees from a range of backgrounds including local elected officials, city staff, business representatives, service providers, non-profits, housing developers, and others
- Day 1: half-day services and facilities tour to see and learn about the current continuum of homeless services
- Day 2: learning, sharing, committing – opening session, panel, table discussion, breakout sessions, keynote speaker, table discussion
- Details: sponsors are Supervisor Horsley, Supervisor Slocum, and County Manager Mike Callagy; target date (Feb/March 2022); Core planning committee (Board, CMO, HSA, Housing/Health staff, SAMCEDA, Chamber); advisory committee members (Shelter/service providers, advocates, city staff, faith community, affordable housing developers and providers, funders, health providers, others)
- HOPE IAC members provided feedback on days of the week would be preferred, mentioned Tues/Wednesday or Thursday/Friday
- Goal is to have many stakeholders there to share experience and to learn – bring people together with different perspectives and knowledge
- HOPE IAC members were asked for their ideas for content and shared the following:
 - Would like to see both short-term and long-term best practices that would be implementable within the county as an outcome from this gathering
 - People who are experiencing homelessness and who have chronic addiction disorders who are struggling to find and enter housing, potentially ideas around increasing partnerships with AOD programs to provide more services to this population
- Review of event planning organization tree
- HOPE IAC members provided feedback that the event should cover homelessness from multiple perspectives which can make someone more at risk – to get full spectrum of what leads to homelessness
- Asked if anyone is interested in joining a planning committee:
 - Help with tour planning committee: Matthew Chidester, Melissa Platte, Pastor Bains
 - Help develop program for full-day event: Matthew Chidester, Brian Greenberg, Melissa Platte, Lissette Espinoza-Garnica, Teri Chin.
 - Princess Futrell indicated an interest in participating in a committee
 - WTEH Planning Committee to reach out to volunteers to determine capacity of volunteering.

Navigation Center Planning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will operate as a Housing First, low-barrier, service-enriched shelter and will be located at 1450 Maple Street, Redwood City • Will have intensive services on site with the goal of assisting clients with moving into permanent housing • Will play a key part in achieving functional zero • Will have a client-centered service model • Was developed with input from individuals with lived experience and community partners • The draft timeline was shared: design – May 21-Feb 22; performance spec – May 21-Aug 21; pre-construction – July 21-Feb 22; construction – March 22-Dec 22; activation – Winter 2022 <p>Public comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gini Lilani, (Caminar), shared concerns about people who are moving into housing with vouchers may not be ready for housing. ○ Cindy Chan (Department of Housing) – HUD changed the model on how the Housing Authority would administer vouchers; and housing readiness is not one of the eligibility factors. ○ Jessica Silverberg (Human Services Agency)– HSA and the Department of Housing and partner agencies are continually thinking through questions about how to offer/connect people to support services as they are moving into housing. Different voucher programs have different types of supportive services included in the voucher program, and there are some other funding sources/other services that can also provide services but depends on the specific eligibility of the person and the funding source.
Roundtable Announcements	<p>HOPE IAC Members shared announcements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teri Chin shared updates about the City of Redwood City’s initiatives on homelessness: The City Council recently approved a third year for the Downtown Streets Team initiative, continues to offer temporary safe parking program, has a plan that includes focus on mitigation efforts of impact of homelessness in community, and a potential initiative on outreach efforts. • Matthew Chidester shared about local partnerships between the City of Half Moon Bay and Abundant Grace and ALAS and offered to share models with attendees. Also, shared that Coastside Shelter was renamed to Coast House.
Closure/Questions	<p>Meeting Adjourned at 11:22 a.m.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>November 10, 2021</p>