# Sacramento County Human Services Coordinating Council

## Meeting Minutes: August 8, 2019

Meeting Location:

Dept. of Human Assistance

2700 Fulton Ave

Sacramento, CA. 95821

Conference Room 58

Facilitator: Ernie Brown, Chair

**Staffed by:** Heisel Magett

Meeting Attendees:

* HSCC Members –Ernie Brown, Erica Jaramillo, Melinda Avey, Raymond Kemp, Robert Silva, Jr., Kula Koenig, Paul Tanner, Steve Orkand, Randy Hicks, Leslie Julianel, Paula Green, Caroline Lucas, Teresa Ogan,
* Ex-Officio Members –Eduardo Ameneyro (DHA), Michelle Callejas, Martha Haas (DCFAS), Xochitl Gomez (BOS), Erin Maurie for Julie Gallelo (First 5)

Absent Members:

* HSCC Members – N/A
* Ex-Officio Members: Bruce Wagstaff (CEO), Cindy Cavanaugh (Homeless Initiatives), Peter Beilenson (OFCA)

**Public**:

* Mary Schleeter (Agency on Aging), Patty Gainer, Lisa Bates (Sacramento Steps Forward), Greg Schuelke (SSF) , Gisele

Hulman (Impact Sac), Crystal Hardig (Impact Sac)

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| Call to Order | Chair, Ernie Brown, welcomed everyone, introductions were made, and meeting called to informal order. |
| Approval of June 13, 2019 Minutes | Approval of June 6, 2019 Minutes with corrections by Ernie Brown and Melinda Avey. |
| Special Presentation: Lisa Bates with Sacramento Steps Forward | Lisa Bates with Sacramento Steps Forward presented a status update for the HSCC.  Quick Stats:   * The 2019 Point-In-Time Count regarding Homelessness in Sacramento County was conducted in January 2019 with assistance from Mustard Seed and other groups. General HUD Guidelines are to conduct a census of individuals experiencing HUD homelessness and views sheltered and unsheltered individuals, is conducted every two years, and always during the last ten days of January * The CSUS Goals and approach for 2019 was to improve components but retain some similarities with previous counts, incorporate random samplings of known locations, and experiment with random sampling of unknown locations * Specific new things CSUS/SSF did for the 2019 Homeless Count was to formalize a process for identifying known locations, hold in-person meetings/focus groups with stakeholders and leverage existing data resources from municipalities/counties. In addition, there were improved survey instrument and protocols including a Mobile Survey App, additional training for interviewers, and targeted outreach to specific groups. They also defined a sampling area and performed the count over two nights to maximize volunteer resources * There were 550 in-person interviews collected, which is three times more than previous years * The final count was 5,570 individuals. Seventy percent (3,900 of the individuals) were unsheltered and of those individuals, 12 percent were children under 18, 8 percent were youth aged 18-24, and 80 percent were adults. It was deemed hat 36 per 10,000 residents experience homelessness each night. * Other findings included that homelessness has increased by 19 percent since 2017, 93 percent of unsheltered respondents were originally from Sacramento or long-term residents. The percent of people experiencing chronic homelessness has decreased among the population by seven percent overall. * The racial distribution showed that Black and American Indian individuals are disproportionately represented in the homeless population. * Other findings from 2019 include that half of unsheltered seniors became homeless later in life, addressing the lack of affordable housing was the number one issue mentioned by the unsheltered population, twenty percent of the homeless population with families were families with children and of those unsheltered families, 33 percent were living in vehicles. * Other facts: Last year, Sacramento has the highest rent increases in the state, 54 communities have declared a homeless shelter crisis, and 3600 individuals experiencing homeless were housed in 2018. * Successes and lessons learned: Mobile technology, managing larger deployment, balancing accuracy versus consistency and random sampling of previously unknown locations * The researchers three takeaways from this year’s count was that it is clear that more people are experiencing homelessness and for longer periods, there are many unsheltered homeless with a lack of public space to go to, and that homelessness is dramatically increasing in California despite the strong economy * Lisa also notes there will be dashboard to show how many people returned to homelessness since being housed last * SSF also compiled data on how many people faced homelessness due to evictions. Numbers to be released soon   Questions from HSCC:   * Paul: Housing supply is low including affordable housing units. Sacramento needs to be able to produce 180,000 units per year only have 80,00 per year * Steve: What percentage of people contacted were actually asked questions? Lisa cannot answer this time. Steve also inquired about the families living in cars: Do most people stay in or around parks and/or tent cities? Lisa said she will look into this for him. Steve also asked how many of these people are couch surfing or only predominantly living on the streets. Lisa stated she will follow up on this as well. * Randy: Inquired as to if there is data for disability groups. Lisa stated that she will follow up. * Melinda: Inquired asked if there was a decrease over the past couple of years in chronic homelessness not rising at the rate they previously thought. Also, Melinda inquired as to alcohol and drug data. The numbers on the point in time count showed that 60 percent stated they had addiction issues, but no more intensive questions were asked or answered and the SSF is unsure as to what the actual data is regarding this statistic and will not know at this time. Does Sacramento Steps Forward manage $20 million from HUD? Yes, but this is shared with the city and county. In addition, what percentage of people who already have paperwork completed prior to requesting housing receive the housing? Lisa says they are looking into tracking this for the next point in time count. * Erica: What’s new to the methodology over the past couple of years? Lisa stated that the count has improved even though it is not perfect. Sac State (CSUS) said it will be easier moving forward. Are age groups split or grouped? The population tends to be increasing in age from the last point in time count. Mercy Housing has a displacement plan to be comparable housing. Also, Lisa said that the methodology is improving and that Sacramento Steps Forward is improving and changing the methodology of how they conduct the Point in Time Count. In addition, Erica asked if Capital Park Hotel is included with helping to house people and there are measures being taken to improve this housing? Lisa stated that yes, and in the meantime tat Mercy Housing is placing displaced people to livable quarters elsewhere via a displacement plan. * Leslie: Is there a median size of available housing for homeless? Lisa stated this is not known completely at this time. Is the amount that Sacramento County gets proportionate to other counties? Each county must get a least $500,000 per year to assist homelessness. * Randy: Disability queries-Most homeless individuals are said in the Point in Time report to have dual-diagnoses. Is there a detailed report regarding this? Lisa will gain more information regarding this concern. * Theresa: Are there rezoning concerns with the homeless? Please review Cindy Cavanaugh’s presentation from the May 9, 2019 HSCC Minutes * Raymond: With a lot of money being given to the city and counties in California, how does the homeless population keep increasing? Lisa stated they are looking sure that everyone is investing in the correct solutions. Also, rising housing costs have driven rent higher and made it difficult for people to rent, this creating homelessness.   Lisa thanked the HSCC members for having her out to speak in regards to Sacramento Steps Forward, what she does in her current position, and how she helps the community. |
| Member Comments | * Neighborhood association…any news? Melinda stated that she is waiting for the Chiefs of Staff to respond. * Erin Maurie from First 5 handout on Community Connections * Grants and census presentation may be in December * Randy will send Cindy information to look at the accessibility of the automotive industry locations and what is being done to make them ADA accessible * Melinda stated that the Drug and Alcohol Council is working on helping people have easier access to walk-in detox psych medication and facilities * HSCC Call For Nominations sent and due back by 8.26.19. |
| Public Comments | No comments. |
| Announcements | Michelle Callejas will be the speaker at the September HSCC Main Council meeting. |
| Adjourn | Meeting adjourned. |