

# Sacramento County Human Services Coordinating Council

## Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2022

## Zoom Meeting

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1619908273?pwd=Kzq4bEVjOVM5UDB3Y0Zjb2JqRDRGQT09>

Meeting ID: 161 990 8273

Passcode: 712546

**Facilitator:** Melinda Avey, Secretary

**Staffed by:** Gloria Bedford

## Meeting Attendees:

- **HSCC Members:** Melinda Avey(Vice Chair), Raymond Kemp, Randy Hicks, Lourdes Santana-Sanchez, Angelina Woodberry
- **Ex-Officio Members:** Martha Haas (for Michelle Callejas, DCFAS), Erin Maurie (for Julie Gallelo, First 5)
- **Guests/Public:** Paula Lomazzi, Safe Ground; Liz Blum, Decarcerate Sacramento; Mackenzie Wilson, Decarcerate Sacramento; Lori Miller, Health Services; Jennifer Cha, River City Medical Group; Paul Wagstaffe, Mental Health Board; Niki Jones; GomezX (via phone)

## Absent Members:

- **HSCC Members:** Jessica Sankus (Chair), Linda Howe-Ram, Debra Bonner, Paul Tanner
- **Ex-Officio Members:** Eduardo Ameneiro (for Human Assistance), Emily Halcon, Homeless Initiatives; Xochitl Gomez, Bd. Of Supervisors; Chevon Kothari, Health Services

<b>Call to Order</b>	Secretary, Melinda Avey, called meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.
<b>Approval of March 10, 2022 Minutes</b>	March 10, 2022, minutes moved and seconded. No corrections. One abstention.
<b>Presentation: Safe Ground Sacramento</b>	Paula Lomazzi, Executive Director, Homeless Organizing Committee, shared information on Safe Ground activities. Safe Ground was formed by unhoused people and has supported unhoused people since 2009. Paula can be reached at 916.862.8649 for more information.
<b>Presentation: Decarcerate Sacramento</b>	<p>Liz Blum and Mackenzie Wilson shared information on Decarcerate Sacramento, a local organization that focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the number of people incarcerated in Sacramento County,</li> <li>• Preventing expansion of the jail system,</li> <li>• Shifting expenditure of public dollars to public health solutions that increase community safety.</li> </ul> <p>Highlights of the presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ From 1982-2002, California carried out the largest prison-building project in the world, building prisons at a faster rate than ever before. However our communities are no safer. Likely because safety is about more than punishment. It is about public health.</li> <li>➤ Sacramento County incarcerates people at a 15.5% higher rate than similarly-sized U.S. counties and at a 47% higher rate than other counties in California.</li> <li>➤ African Americans make up 37% of the jail population, but only 11% of the Sacramento County population.</li> <li>➤ 40,000 people are booked into Sacramento County jails per year.</li> <li>➤ 57% of people who are arrested and jailed are released within 3 days, meaning they probably shouldn't have been arrested in the first place, but they were held long enough to lose a job.</li> <li>➤ 82% of the jail population is pre-trial.</li> <li>➤ 62% of the pre-trial jail population are diagnosed with mental illness.</li> <li>➤ More than 50% of individuals charged with misdemeanors are unhoused.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 15% of the jail population have been booked more than 11 times in past 6 years, pointing to a cycle of arresting and booking and the criminalization of poverty, mental illness and addiction.</li> <li>➤ Jail is Sacramento County’s largest form of public housing.</li> </ul> <p>The Public Defender has a nationally recognized pre-trial program, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a 2% recidivism rate (vs 13% for a similar Probation program).</li> <li>• Preserves the presumption of innocence.</li> <li>• Conducts needs assessments vs. safety assessments.</li> <li>• At a cost of approximately \$200 per participant, is very cost effective.</li> </ul> <p>More information is available by contacting Liz or Mack at <a href="mailto:DecarcerateSac@gmail.com">DecarcerateSac@gmail.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>Wellness Crisis Call Center and Response Update</b></p>	<p>The WCCC is still on track for a July 1, 2022, launch. Current priorities are recruitment and hiring staff.</p>
<p><b>Chair Report</b></p>	<p>The HSCC is returning to in-person meetings in June. Previous in-person meetings were located at the Dept. of Human Assistance building on Fulton Ave. Please provide ideas for other locations to Gloria Bedford at <a href="mailto:bedfordg@saccounty.net">bedfordg@saccounty.net</a>. Member comment – Hybrid meetings are preferred.</p>
<p><b>Member Advisory Board Reports</b></p>	<p><b>Disability Advisory Commission</b> – Continuing its work on the self-evaluation plan with a focus on complaint forms. It is also working on housing issues. Former DAC representative, Reggie Nelson, had to step down and wanted to share how much she enjoyed working with the Council.</p> <p><b>Alcohol &amp; Drug Advisory Board</b> – The DHS Substance Use Prevention and Treatment unit funds the SURE Program, which can take referrals from homeless advocacy groups and community-based providers as well as law enforcement.</p> <p><b>Children’s Coalition</b> – Continuing its work on the Children’s Report Card, which it expects will be finalized by the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.</p>