



Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness
735 State Street, Suite 515, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 (805) 293-7965

C3H Policy Council
5/11/2017 Minutes Approved 7/13/2017

Thursday, May 11th, 2017: 9:00 am – 11:00 am -- Amended 7/13/2017

County of Santa Barbara Administration Building,
Planning Commission Hearing Room
105 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, 93101

Joseph Centeno Betteravia Government Administration Building, Board of Supervisors'
Conference Room
511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria 93455

Present: *Chair* Supervisor Steve Lavagnino, Fifth District, County of Santa Barbara
Vice Chair Councilmember Cathy Murillo, City of Santa Barbara
Councilmember Al Clark, City of Carpinteria
Councilmember Michael Cordero, City of Santa Maria
Councilmember Jenelle Osborne, City of Lompoc
Mayor Paula Perotte, City of Goleta
Mayor Helene Schneider, City of Santa Barbara
Mayor Holly Sierra, City of Buellton
Councilmember Etta Waterfield, City of Santa Maria
Supervisor Das Williams, First District, County of Santa Barbara

Absent: All members were in attendance

Meeting Called to Order – 9:00 am

1. **Public Comment** -Dorothy Mogavero spoke regarding the United Way's support of the Home For Good effort
2. **Comments and Announcements from Policy Council Members**
 - Mayor Schneider announced a town hall on homelessness with the downtown business owners on May 17th, 8:00 - 9:15 at the Louise Lowry Davis Center
 - Councilmember Murillo reported on the oversized vehicle ban in Santa Barbara. She stated that many owners are unhappy and asking for a delay in enforcement. The biggest issue is where people can legally put the vehicles during the day. Safe Parking (New Beginnings) is looking for spaces.
 - Councilmember Osborne announced that the Lompoc City Council will host a town hall on Lompoc homelessness on May 25th.
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - **Action:** Consider approval of the March 9, 2017 Policy Council Meeting Minutes.

C3H will harness all resources available to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness, as well as minimize the impacts of homelessness in Santa Barbara County.

- Consent agenda motion to approve made by Mayor Perotte, seconded by Mayor Schneider, unanimous approval with members who were absent abstaining.

4. Housing Placement Report

- Chuck Flacks, Executive Director, presented the data from the latest report, which is on the C3H website for ongoing reference.

5. Report from Santa Barbara Police Chief

- Chief Lori Luhnnow presented on policing activities to address the problem of homelessness. Key points included:
 - Restorative policing has had 630 placements of homeless people in 5 years, making it one of the most effective solutions to homelessness in the County.
 - Restorative policing is adding second officer, bringing back its full complement.
 - The department is being reorganized to focus on nuisances and partnerships with other agencies.
 - Emphasis is on each person's individual needs and each person's dignity
 - Need for continuing and expanding role for mental health personnel from County Behavioral Wellness and outside agencies.
 - Welcome new training and new opportunities for solutions.
- Mayor Perotte said she was impressed with the placement numbers. She asked if there was any coordination with Sheriffs.
- Supervisor Williams said that he liked the combination of compassion and accountability. He stated that a survey of downtown businesses showed that 80% of panhandlers are people with substance abuse problems. He wondered if there could be a new ordinance to address this ongoing issue. He agreed that law enforcement ought to be a priority.
- Chief Luhnnow: ordinance on panhandling is not legal, against the First Amendment. One of the challenges to accountability is that infractions are low level and easily ignored by people with nothing to lose. Enforcement does not have the kind of teeth that it used to have.
- Supervisor Williams: Concerned about the costs of misdemeanors. Are the rates of citations too high? Stated that Santa Barbara has rates of conservership that are 2x the rate in Ventura. Asked if Chief was looking at rates people are being conserved. Asked if we are using the jail as a de facto shelter.
- Chief Luhnnow: Agreed that jail is not an effective treatment for homelessness. She suggested that more analysis is needed, and perhaps use of new tools like stay-away orders and increased access to mental health treatment. She wants to see an end to revolving door use of jail for shelter. She called for "getting the right people at the table."
- Mayor Schneider: Acknowledged the presence of the Director of Behavioral Wellness, Dr. Alice Gleghorn. Pointed to budgetary challenges and the call to "do more with less." If policing is not the answer, let's find longer term solutions. Expressed concern that there is only one homeless outreach person at Behavioral Wellness for entire South County.

- Dr. Gleghorn: Department has applied for new funding for expanding cooperation between mental health and law enforcement. Biggest challenge is that if people don't volunteer for services, it's impossible to bill for the services needed. No funding for trying to chase people down. New budget adds another 1/2 FTE for outreach. Agrees that the need for more outreach is critical and that an expansion of Restorative Court like solutions for whole County would be fantastic, but requires new funding.
- Mayor Schneider: Businesses might be willing to partner and fund new solutions. We really lack full participation by the business community. On the panhandling issue, we tried to institute an alternative -- Real Change not Spare Change -- it didn't work well.
- Dr. Gleghorn: We have had great relationships with the business community and would welcome more participation.
- Supervisor Williams: County is facing a \$39 million deficit. On the table are cuts to mental health, the sheriff, Laura's Law (even though the pilot has been successful).
- Supervisor Lavagnino: rather than the Policy Council taking a position on County budget, he suggested that a letter come from the C3H executive director calling for consideration for mental health
- Supervisor Williams: Concerned that Laura's Law is most threatened. This is a program that reaches out to people who are resisting services. The Mental Wellness Commission was particularly concerned that Laura's Law be preserved.
- Mayor Schndeder:
 - Motion that Executive Director write a letter to County Board of Supervisor calling for an increase in mental health funding, including, but not limited to preserving Laura's Law. Councilmember Clark second. Unanimous approval

6. C3H Administration

- Chuck Flacks presented the 2017-2018 preliminary budget for approval and discussed plans for generating new revenue in partnership with the United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County through the Home for Good initiative. He reported that the 2017-2018 budget will require the use of \$90,047 of reserves (assuming all revenues are approved as expected). He will make a full report on state of the budget in July. He also lay out his assumptions for how the Home for Good Santa Barbara initiative could parallel the success of Los Angeles. He presented a preliminary fact sheet.
- Supervisor Lavagnino: C3H has morphed and changed toward a greater focus on outreach. Sadly, these efforts are not sustainable. The work should go on, but we need to find a way to augment the funding from the cities and County. He said that he would help get North County businesses engaged as program rolls out.
- Supervisor Williams: It is hard to predict sustainability. The public sector facing budget deficits, even in a good economy, because of pension obligations. The public does not understand these pressures. People are paying taxes and expect to get benefits from them. He supports generating new revenues.
- Mayor Perotte: Thanks for being proactive. We need to maintain the regional coordination efforts: finding a replacement for Luke -- wondered where the Goleta Chamber is on this issue.

- Mayor Schneider: Always felt that the six month reserve was too optimistic. This county has been looking for a bold initiative to solve the problem of homelessness -- this could be it. "It's better to burn out than fade away."
- Councilmember Murillo: C3H is doing good work. She believes that the public would support revenue proposals if they believe that the funding will actually solve problems. The key will be reaching the electorate and all working together.
- Councilmember Clark: We should move forward, the ground game is working. He suggested that the focus ought to be on individual business champions, rather than Chambers, who may be reluctant to take the lead on something like this. He believes that the political will come from the people, not the politicians.
- Councilmember Cordero: Concerned that if everything doesn't fall into place, that C3H would go away. He also expressed concern that more and more homeless people seem to be on the streets. He wants to see funding spent more wisely to address the causes of homelessness, not just dealing with the aftermath of the problem.
- Supervisor Williams: Very concerned about mental health crisis and rise in dual diagnoses. He also wondered that if there are cuts to foster care, how that would impact more homeless youth on the streets. He pointed out that people aging out of care are often homeless.
- Mayor Sierra: Expressed support for the direction that C3H is going.
- Councilmember Waterfield: Expressed concern that C3H might be trying to push new taxes, and that there may not be enough funding to sustain C3H.
- Mayor Schneider:
 - Motion to accept staff proposal for new budget and plan to develop new revenues. Murillo Second. All in favor, with Waterfield abstaining.

7. C3H Staff Reports

- Andrea Sneed and Jeff Shaffer presented on North County activities.
 - CenCal and Whole Person Care coordination -- In Coordination with Sylvia Barnard – Good Samaritan Shelter (Full Spectrum of Homelessness) Focus – whole person care outcomes -- with an emphasis on high utilizers. The committee includes health care providers & homeless service providers. The group is working on specific outcomes & 6 month plan. Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 24 – Trinity Church in Lompoc
 - Lompoc -- Lompoc Town Hall on Homelessness Tuesday, May 2, In coordination with Mayor Bob Lingl. Purpose – data presentation & solutions to local homelessness. Participants include housing, shelter, treatment, outreach partners, and law enforcement. The goal of the meeting is to spark more community engagement, and to answer questions and concerns from the City Council and public.
 - Santa Maria - 10 Now -- Dignity Health grant -- plan is to have 10 new clients added to 10 current clients. New Clients – High utilizers & high vulnerability All 10 will be housed using the TBRA Vouchers from the County Housing Authority. Other key partners include Behavioral Wellness / Transitions Mental Health - Goal is to have 10 Chronic & Vulnerable people housed by 12/2018

- Request from Policy Council: Help us find partners for flexible local dollars in North County
 - Assistance for basic needs for COT Clients on the streets
 - Assistance for basic needs for COT clients recently housed
 - Funds are overseen by COTs– only used for clients who are taking empowerment steps
- Luke Barrett presented on South County activities.
 - Carpinteria -- Ongoing outreach and case management services. Homeless lunch, laundry, and mail (weekly) Goals: tiny homes, shower access, safe needle disposal. Public impact of homelessness is a concern, peer policing and stipend work is a possible solution
 - Santa Barbara -- Reunification program in partnership with Downtown Santa Barbara; Research projects with Cottage Health; Nutrition project in partnership with CSUCI Nursing; Goals: improved tracking of reunifications and transparency in reporting
 - Goleta: Coordinated Outreach Team now includes Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital, 2 contracted shelter beds at the Salvation Army Hospitality House are going to budget review Goal: build capacity of the Coordinated Outreach Team
 - Isla Vista: Flexible local fund for stipend work: ongoing pilot project; Philosophy of homelessness event in partnership with UCSB; Housing retention success in partnership with Behavioral Wellness and the County Housing Authority Goal: increase mental health treatment service options
 - Request from Policy Council:
 - Support contracted shelter beds for Goleta
 - Support increased funding and interagency cooperation for data sharing and outcome reporting: measurable public accountability
 - Encourage expansion of the Sheriff's Office Community Resource Deputy program. SBPD restorative police is a model.
- **Next Meeting is July 13th, 9-11:00 a.m.**