

Purpose Statement:

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.



Strategies:

- *Housing First
- *Housing Ready
- *Family/Employer Reunification

Pillars/Goals:

- ◆ Prevent homelessness
- ◆ Support the expansion of housing for the homeless
- ◆ Build a results- and data-driven culture
- ◆ Elevate community dialogue, support, and collaboration regarding homelessness
- ◆ Encourage commitment to self-sufficiency

Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2015: 9:00 – 11:00 am

County Administrative Building, Planning Commission Hearing Room (Room 17)
123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, 93101

Joseph Centeno Betteravia Government Administration Building, Board Hearing Room
511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria 93455

Present:

Chair Mayor Helene Schneider, City of Santa Barbara
Vice Chair Supervisor Steve Lavagnino, Fifth District, County of Santa Barbara
Councilmember Jack Boysen, City of Santa Maria
Mayor Gregg Carty, City of Carpinteria
Supervisor Doreen Farr, Third District, County of Santa Barbara
Mayor Paula Perotte, City of Goleta

Absent:

Councilmember Dale Francisco, City of Santa Barbara
Mayor Holly Sierra, City of Buellton
Councilmember Terri Zuniga, City of Santa Maria

I. Meeting Called to Order – 9:13 am

II. 2015 Policy Council Membership

Reappointment of the following Policy Councilmembers by their respective jurisdictions was confirmed:

- Councilmember Boysen (City of Santa Maria)
- Supervisor Farr (County of Santa Barbara)
- Supervisor Lavagnino (County of Santa Barbara)
- Councilmember Zuniga (City of Santa Maria)

Mayor Carty, Mayor Schneider, Mayor Perotte, and Councilmember Francisco noted that their respective City Councils were scheduled to consider reappointments throughout January; they all anticipated continuing to serve on the Policy Council.

III. Election of Officers

Motion/Second to add the nomination and election of C3H Policy Council Chair and Vice Chair to the agenda: Francisco/Perotte; Motion carried unanimously.

Motion/Second to nominate Mayor Schneider to serve as Policy Council Chair: Perotte/Boysen; Motion carried unanimously, and Mayor Schneider was elected Chair, succeeding Supervisor Farr. Mayor Schneider commended Supervisor Farr for her leadership on homelessness and of the Policy Council.

Motion/Second to nominate Supervisor Farr to serve as Policy Council Vice Chair: Boysen/Lavagnino. Supervisor Farr respectfully declined, noting the value in getting different perspectives in the leadership, and Councilmember Boysen withdrew the motion.

Motion/Second to nominate Supervisor Lavagnino to serve as Policy Council Vice Chair: Boysen/Farr; Motion carried unanimously, and Supervisor Lavagnino was elected Vice Chair.

IV. Public Comment

N/A.

V. Consent Agenda

Action: Consider Approval of November 13, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second to approve minutes of the November 13, 2014 meeting of the Policy Council: Francisco/Perotte; Motion carried unanimously.

Housing Placement Data

Supervisor Farr noted her appreciation for the inclusion of Reunification data in the Housing Placement Report.

VI. Housing Expansion Working Group

Glenn Bacheller (Social Venture Partners) made a presentation on efforts underway through leadership of Social Venture Partners (SVP), to support addressing homelessness in Santa Barbara County. SVP's Homelessness Affinity Group has focused on three areas: expanding access to supportive services, expanding access to funding, and expanding access to housing.

Under Mr. Bacheller's direction, the housing focus group identified a program in Seattle that has housed nearly 5,000 people in less than five years, by incenting landlords with privately owned units to rent to individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness. The program offers landlords access to a 24/7 hotline, a financial "safety net" in the event that a unit is damaged beyond the scope of the security deposit, mediation/eviction support if needed, and also provides supportive services to the tenants in the program (administered by referring agencies), in addition to training, move-in money, and other financial assistance.

The roll-out team for the Landlord Liaison Program includes representatives from C3H, Good Samaritan Shelter, the Housing Authorities of the City and County of Santa Barbara, New Beginnings Counseling Center, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), the Salvation Army, Transition House, and Transitions Mental Health Associates. As done in Seattle, the Santa Barbara County Program will be developed with the input of private landlords, including representatives from the Santa Barbara Rental Property Association.

Mayor Schneider and the Policy Councilmembers remarked on the important role a program of this kind can play in the community and thanked Mr. Bacheller for SVP's valuable engagement on homelessness issues.

VII. C3H Budget

FY 2015 Budget

Sue Gray (City of Santa Barbara) presented the revised 2015 budget, which includes the supplemental income solicited to fund the Point in Time (PIT) Count.

Action: Accept Santa Barbara Foundation Express Grant for Registry Week

Motion/Second to accept the \$5,000 Santa Barbara Foundation Express Grant: Farr/Francisco; Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Update on Executive Director Recruitment

Erin Weber (County of Santa Barbara) provided an update on the recruitment process for the C3H Executive Director, noting that the position description was first posted in early December 2014, and 37 applications had been received to date. Many of the applicants have significant management experience, knowledge of issues related to homelessness and the systems to address it, in addition to familiarity with the collective impact model and experience working with social service providers and representatives of local government.

Ms. Weber noted that many of the applicants are from out-of-state, and that assistance from the Policy Council in identifying qualified local applicants would be appreciated. Staff from Your People Professionals (YPP) will contact ten of the most qualified applicants to schedule phone interviews over the course of the following week, and will then brief the *ad hoc* committee, on which Mayor Schneider, Mayor Sierra, and Councilmember Boysen serve.

Three to four applicants would be selected for in-person interviews with the *ad hoc* committee, which would likely be scheduled to take place in February.

IX. Registry Week 2015

Roll-Out

Jeff Shaffer (C3H) provided background information on the Registry Week PIT Count and Vulnerability Survey, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29. Four volunteer trainings will be held throughout Santa Barbara County in January, in the following cities: Lompoc (January 14), Goleta (January 15), Santa Maria (January 21), and Santa Barbara (January 24). Policy Councilmembers are invited to participate in the trainings and speak to their communities about C3H and the broader effort to address homelessness.

This year, the Vulnerability Survey will be administered primarily through the iSurvey mobile application on smartphones and tablets, which will enable the automatic upload of data once it is entered. Registry Week data will help inform the work to reduce homelessness at the regional level throughout Santa Barbara County

Volunteer Recruitment

Emily Allen (Legal Aid Foundation/Common Ground Santa Barbara County) and Stephen Gruver (Common Ground Santa Barbara County) talked about their outreach to C3H partners, service providers, local government agencies, past volunteers, and faith community representatives, to recruit Registry Week volunteers. Surf Media is also engaged through C3H to issue press releases and media advisories to support recruitment.

Volunteer Training Curriculum

The volunteer trainings include information on the basics on homelessness; evidence-based best practices for addressing homelessness, including the role of C3H and other community stakeholders; review of past Registry Week data; instructions to administer the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) on iSurvey; and an Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) component on safety and awareness of mental health issues. Registry Week is also an important opportunity for volunteers to learn how they can support the effort to address homelessness on an ongoing basis.

X. Regional Coordination

Milpas Project

Mayor Schneider, Supervisor Lavagnino, and other members of the Policy Council commended the Milpas Project participants, whose work was recently profiled in the December 24, 2014 issue of the Santa Barbara *Independent*. Luke Barrett (Common Ground Santa Barbara County/Doctors Without Walls) spoke about the inter-disciplinary nature of the Milpas Project team, and the success that can be achieved when stakeholders take a hyper-local advocacy approach to supporting clients experiencing homelessness. The big picture goal is to demonstrate through the Project that this model of collaboration is effective, and replicate it in other parts of Santa Barbara County, which will change the lives of the individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and improve the health of the community as a whole.

The Milpas Project is working with ten clients, all of whom are chronically homeless and are high users of crisis and emergency services, including the hospital/emergency room and the jail; several of the ten face substance abuse, mental health, and physical health issues, and need wraparound supportive services tailored to their individual needs. At least two of the ten have burned bridges at Casa Esperanza, and with other local service providers. Important to this model is the availability of bridge housing – units with low barriers to entry and few restrictions that can be used to temporarily house an individual while permanent housing is being secured.

Eleven months following the start of the Milpas Project, six of the ten individuals are in permanent housing, and one is in a skilled nursing facility. Mayor Schneider noted the importance of determining the cost savings that can result when high users of emergency and crisis services become housed. That data will be important to demonstrate the viability of this model to funders, business leaders, and the broader community. Ms. Allen responded that SVP is working closely with the Milpas Project to try and capture some of that data.

Pescadero Lofts Update

John Polansky (Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara) provided an update on Pescadero Lofts, a housing project that opened in Isla Vista in December 2014. Twenty-nine of the 32 resident units are leased and occupied, and nearly all of the residents experienced homelessness in Isla Vista prior to becoming housed there. Mr. Polansky said that the average time homeless for Pescadero Lofts residents was ten years, but others were homeless for thirty years or more, including one Veteran who was on the street since he returned to the U.S. after fighting in the Vietnam War. The residents have received training on basic skills essential to living successfully indoors, and support from government agencies and community based organizations like ADMHS, Common Ground, and Doctors Without Walls, has been key to Pescadero Lofts' effective operation.

Plans for 2015

Mr. Shaffer and leaders of the Milpas Project are in conversation with the Downtown Organization about expanding the Project to lower State Street. While the culture of homelessness is slightly different in that area, similar resources and buy-in from the business community will be essential to success. Mr. Shaffer is also in conversation with leaders in Santa Maria, including Councilmember Boysen, Eddie Taylor (United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County), and Rhonda Barnhard (City of Santa Maria) to talk about the City's priorities related to homelessness, in addition to the priorities of service providers and other regional partners.

In Carpinteria, ten to fifteen individuals experiencing chronic homelessness have been identified for outreach, and regional partners are interested in creating an effort that is connected to housing. In Isla Vista, Mr. Shaffer and partners would like to get more student volunteers engaged. Supervisor Farr commended Mr. Shaffer on his excellent work, and suggested that he reach out to Associated Students, and the social science academic departments for additional contacts who could help engage the student community. She also suggested talking with Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) and students at Santa Barbara Community College.

XI. Thank You

Christie Alarcon, City of Lompoc

Mayor Schneider expressed gratitude to Christie Alarcon for her service on C3H's Executive Oversight Committee, from which she is resigning. Ms. Alarcon will continue to support the effort to address homelessness in other ways, including through her role as Chair of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board.

XII. Meeting Adjourned – 10:37 am