

Purpose Statement:

C3H will harness all resources available to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness, as well as minimize the impacts of homelessness 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

Friday, April 3, 2015: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

County of Santa Barbara Administration Building, Board of Supervisors' Conference Room (4th floor)
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 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
Councilmember Al Clark, City of Carpinteria
Councilmember James Mosby, City of Lompoc
Mayor Paula Perotte, City of Goleta
Mayor Holly Sierra, City of Buellton
Councilmember Terri Zuniga, City of Santa Maria

Absent:

Supervisor Doreen Farr, Third District, County of Santa Barbara
Councilmember Dale Francisco, City of Santa Barbara

I. Meeting Called to Order – 1:30 pm

II. Closed Session

Adjourned to closed session at 1:35 pm; closed session adjourned at 2:05 pm.

III. Report from Closed Session

- Chair Schneider announced that Chuck Flacks was unanimously appointed by the Policy Council to serve as C3H's new Executive Director, and would begin work on April 27.
- *Motion/Second* to confirm appointment: Lavagnino/Boysen; Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

- Students from Westmont College spoke on behalf of Urban Initiative, acknowledging the work accomplished so far to address homelessness in Santa Barbara County, and expressing their interest in supporting future efforts.
- Mr. Flacks introduced himself and thanked the Policy Council; his professional background includes twenty-five years of public service, working on issues that include affordable housing, homelessness, and workforce development.
- Chair Schneider thanked Terri Nisich (County of Santa Barbara), Sue Gray (City of Santa Barbara), Erin Weber (County of Santa Barbara), Zahra Nahar-Moore (C3H), and Jeff Shaffer (C3H) for their work during the transition.

V. Consent Agenda

- *Action:* Consider approval of minutes from the January 8, February 24, and March 13 meetings of the Policy Council.

- *Motion/Second* to approve minutes of the above Policy Council meetings: Lavagnino/Perotte; Motion carried unanimously.

VI. 2016 C3H Operating Budget

- Ms. Nahar-Moore (C3H) presented a draft of the operating budget for the 2015 – 16 fiscal year, which assumed *status quo* funding based on the amounts received from each jurisdiction during the 2014 – 15 fiscal year; she noted that the letters requesting a proportionate share of funds from each participating jurisdiction had been sent out from Chair Schneider’s office.
- The draft budget included allocations for the full-time Executive Director position, an increase to the indirect costs charged by Northern Santa Barbara County United Way, and four stipends in the amount of \$1,500 each to support the regional coordination efforts – specifically outreach workers and peer navigators.
- Councilmember Boysen requested that the use of Reserve monies for stipends should be subject to confirmation of full funding for the C3H operating budget.
- Mr. Shaffer noted that Westmont College has created a new program that will offer students credit for working 20 hours per week to support public interest initiatives in the City of Santa Barbara; C3H is seeking additional support through this program.
- Chair Schneider asked the members of the Policy Council to report on the status of the C3H operating budget requests in their jurisdictions, and whether or not further assistance is needed to acquire funds.
 - Chair Schneider noted that with the support of Rob Pearson and Rob Fredericks, the Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara granted C3H’s \$25,000 request in full, and the City of Santa Barbara has budgeted \$90,000 in funding for C3H, in addition to in-kind contributions.
 - Councilmember Boysen said that a preliminary budget would be determined by May 1 for the City of Santa Maria, and that it was unlikely that the full \$45,000 request would be approved.
 - Councilmember Mosby recalled a conversation with the Administrator for the City of Lompoc, who is still uncertain about the role and the purpose of C3H; Mr. Flacks will meet with him to discuss C3H’s role, and the \$16,000 funding request.
 - Mayor Perotte said that \$3,500 in funds will likely be allocated to C3H through the City of Goleta’s City Grant Program, and an additional \$1,500 may come from the City of Goleta’s General Fund; moving forward, she will work to include C3H in the regular budget.
 - Councilmember Clark serves on the City of Carpinteria’s Budget Committee, and is working to confirm the \$2,500 solicited.
 - Mayor Sierra stated that the City of Buellton would contribute the \$550 requested.
 - Supervisor Lavagnino, representing the County of Santa Barbara, indicated that the \$90,000 requested by C3H has been budgeted by the County.
 - Chair Schneider and C3H staff will meet with Cottage Hospital executives in person to provide an update on C3H’s work, and solicit a \$75,000 grant from the Cottage Hospital Foundation.
- The final C3H budget will be presented for review and approval at the July 9 meeting of the Policy Council.
- *Action:* Consider approval of the preliminary budget.
- *Motion/Second* to consider approval of the preliminary budget: Clark/Perotte; Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Point in Time Count & Vulnerability Survey Data

- Ms. Nahar-Moore presented data from the 2015 Point in Time (PIT) Count and Vulnerability Survey, which was led by C3H in partnership with Common Ground Santa Barbara County and the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara, for the purpose of capturing a “snapshot” of people experiencing homelessness over the course of two days; she noted that the PIT Count methodology does not collect data on every single person experiencing homelessness over an extended period of time.
- Ms. Nahar-Moore and A.J. Quinoveva (County Division of Housing & Community Development) elaborated on the meaning of “sheltered” and “unsheltered” as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in the context of the PIT Count, and the reporting categories that are submitted to HUD; individuals and families who are doubled up or “couch surfing” in permanent housing units are prohibited from inclusion in the PIT Count.
- Mr. Quinoveva noted that the report to HUD includes data from the two-day PIT Count enumeration, in addition to data pulled from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and other surveys administered by the County Division of Housing & Community Development (HCD); before submission to HUD by the April 30 deadline, the information gathered must be reviewed and vetted to ensure that all shelter data has been collected.
- The Vulnerability Survey, which has been conducted in Santa Barbara County in conjunction with the PIT Count since 2011, gathers additional self-reported data from people experiencing homelessness; for the first time in 2015, a new tool, the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) was administered primarily via mobile application on smartphones and tablets.
- C3H staff are working with the CoC Board to implement a family assessment tool that can be used going forward.
- Overall, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County has remained largely unchanged over the course of the previous three PIT Counts, though regional shifts have been observed – *e.g.*, decreases in the number of people encountered in the City of Santa Barbara, and increases in the number of people encountered in the City of Santa Maria.
- The majority of survey respondents self-reported that they lived in Santa Barbara County or another part of California prior to becoming homeless.
- The data continues to indicate that people experiencing homelessness have a high risk of trauma, violence, and serious injury due to living on the street, and chronic disease and mental illness, including severe mental illness, are common.
- Fifteen percent of survey respondents self-identify as Veterans, with 8.3 years as their average length of homelessness, as compared to 5.5 years for the general population.
- Notably, health insurance enrollment among people experiencing homelessness has increased dramatically, likely due to the Affordable Care Act, and the role played by the County Public Health Department, Cottage Hospital, and community based organizations like Common Ground Santa Barbara County, the Freedom Warming Centers, and Good Samaritan Shelters to enroll people experiencing homelessness in Medi-Cal.
- Community-based projects like those in the Milpas Corridor and Downtown State Street are an important resource for the most vulnerable members of the homeless population; coordinated entry will also serve an important function, allowing for resources to be directed where they are most needed.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned – 2:40 pm