

**Purpose Statement:**

C3H will harness all resources available to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness, 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, September 8, 2016: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Buellton Recreation Center, 301 Second Street, Buellton, CA 93427

**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 James Mosby, City of Santa Maria

Councilmember Cathy Murillo, City of Santa Barbara

Councilmember Paula Perotte, City of Goleta

Councilmember Terri Zuniga, City of Santa Maria

**Absent:** Supervisor Doreen Farr, Third District, County of Santa Barbara

Councilmember Al Clark, City of Carpinteria

Councilmember Holly Sierra, City of Buellton

**Meeting Called to Order – 9:00 am**

- 1) **Public Comment** - Two members of the public spoke on items not on the current agenda
- 2) **Consent Agenda**
  - Action: Consider approval of the July 14th Policy Council Meeting Minutes.*
  - Action: Accept Current 2016 Housing Placement Report*
  - Consent agenda motion to approve made by Councilmember Zuniga, seconded by Councilmember Perrote, unanimous approval.
- 3) **Strategic Planning Discussion and Budget Approval**
  - a) Chuck Flacks presented the history and current status of C3H. Key point of discussion was voting on the top priorities of the Policy Council for C3H Activities. The Policy Council was given the following choices for ranking using a vote-by-dot process. Each member was given five dots with which to vote:
    - **Developing a robust data system that tracks people who are homeless into supportive services and housing (9 votes)**
    - **Regional coordination of homeless service providers, city staff, county staff, business leaders and volunteers (8 votes)**
    - **Identifying chronically homeless people, discovering their needs, and housing them with supportive services, through coordinated outreach and case management (7 votes)**
    - Partnering with hospitals to identify high utilizers and providing them alternatives to discharge on the streets (2 votes)
    - Conducting the Point in Time count of homeless people and sharing results (1 vote)
    - Serving as the lead agency to the Continuum of Care (no votes)
    - Working with homeless service providers to identify gaps and increase resources (no votes)
    - Something Else? (Coordinated street outreach) (votes)

Comments:

- \*Concern was expressed that we didn't include the Care and Referral Centers or make Coordinated Outreach their own priorities.
- \*For point in time count and lead agency to the Continuum of Care, the view was clarified that these were givens, and regardless of priority, tasks that need to be done.
- \*Chuck Flacks expressed view that since hospitals are not on Policy Council, yet are significant funders, their priorities may not be reflected.
- \*Councilmember Boysen: Let's be careful not to duplicate data systems already in place.
- \*Supervisor Lavagnino: It is important to tap into the large pool of volunteers to help us achieve our goals.
- \*Councilmember Zuniga: We can do a better job of "drawing a picture of the homeless" and I will invite Jeff Shaffer to our Santa Maria Leadership team meeting which has a network of 600 volunteers
- \*Councilmember Mosby: It is up to the Policy Council and elected officials to spread the word about how the public can better engage in regional meetings and address the problem.
- \*Councilmember Perotte: I have been referring constituents who complain about homelessness to C3H regional meetings
- \*Several council members were interested in hospital partnerships, and supported the continued work
- \*Supervisor Lavagnino: All of our partnerships are tenuous. We need to show data. We are past the point of relying on success stories.
- \*Councilmember Zuniga: Do our investments and outcomes with hospital partners balance out?

- b) Chuck Flacks and Sue Gray presented the budget with Option #1 (status quo funding) and Option #2 (reduced budget)

***Action: Consider revising reserve policy to a 4 month reserve.***

***Action: Consider approving either Option #1 or Option #2***

Comments:

- \*Several Council members were concerned about the relationship between Vertical Change and the County's HMIS system. (currently the HMIS system is closed).
- \*Councilmember Boysen supported a 90 day reserve in line with work that Good Samaritan had conducted on reserve policies.
- \*Supervisor Lavagnino pointed out that future budget years might get harder without Doreen Farr on the Board of Supervisors
- \*Councilmember Boysen urged that showing results was critical to ensure local government funding
- \*Mayor Schneider stated that a 4 month reserve would be prudent.
- \*Supervisor Lavagnino recommended that we approach Cottage Health and Dignity for increases to budget prior to going to cities for increases
- \*Councilmember Boysen reminded everyone that cities are on two-year budget cycles and an incremental approach is important
- \*A discussion about competitive grants from private foundations occurred with Chuck Flacks reminding Policy Council that C3H has agreed not to compete with providers. On the other hand, several Policy Council members recommended that research on outside funding be considered, with possibly an approach made to the Chumash Tribe.
- \*Councilmember Perotte: Data will be critical
- \*Supervisor Lavagnino: We need data and relationships, the mishap with the City of Santa Maria was because C3H had relationships with city staff, but not Santa Maria city councilmembers.
- \*Councilmember Mosby: I support approaching the Chumash
- \*Councilmember Zuniga: Is there a way to craft an ask that is transparent about C3H's intentions not to compete with service providers?
- \*Mayor Schneider: I would recommend researching corporate giving
- \*Supervisor Lavagnino: I just attended a day-long event with Wells Fargo corporate giving

- Councilmember Boysen made motion to change the reserve account to 4 months (amending Policies and Procedures) and to approve the Option #1 Budget. S. Lavagnino Seconded; unanimous approval.

- 4) **Next meeting November 10th 9-11 a.m.**
- 5) **Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.**