



HOMELESS AND HOUSING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – MARCH 27, 2024

Statewide Ballot Measures:

Proposition 1: Two weeks after the election, Proposition 1, the Behavioral Health Services Program and Bond Measure was finally declared a winner with 50.2% of the votes. Prop 1 Authorizes \$6.4 billion in state bonds to fund mental health housing; reconfigures the funding of behavioral health programs under the Mental Health Services Act to prioritize housing.

State Budget Update

The Governor does not reduce the Encampment Resolution Grant Program (\$400 million) or Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program (\$1 billion) in his FY24-25 January budget proposal. However, it does not include new funding to extend either program. The proposed budget does include the following funding reversions, delays, or shifts:

- **HHAP Funding** – delays from 2023-24 to 2025-26 \$260 million to align budgeting more properly with when the funds will be accessed/expended.
- **Veteran Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program** – reverts \$50 million General Fund for the Veteran Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program.
- **Housing Navigators** – reduces \$13.7 million General Fund ongoing for Housing Navigators.

The Governor’s proposed budget makes \$1.2 billion in General Fund reductions over a multi-year period for the following housing programs:

- **Regional Early Action Planning Grants (REAP 2.0)**
- **Multifamily Housing Program (MHP)**
- **Foreclosure Intervention Program**
- **Infill Infrastructure Grant Program (IIG)**
- **CalHome Program**

Federal Budget Update

The Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill was passed by Congress shortly before its March 9th deadline as part of a funding package that averted a partial government shutdown. Key homeless and housing programs were funded at current levels including:

- \$32.4 billion for the **Housing Choice Vouchers Program** and
- \$4 billion for **Homeless Assistance Grants**.

President Biden’s proposed FY2025 Budget was released on March 11, 2024. Highlights include:

- Enhancements to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
- Increased funding for Housing Choice Voucher Program: \$32.75 Billion proposed, an increase of \$369 million.

Legislative Update

This year, state lawmakers have introduced 2,124 bills. A handful address homelessness and housing:

AB 1948 (Rendon) – Homeless multidisciplinary personnel teams: This bill would authorize eight counties, including San Bernardino, to continue using AB 728 authority to share information for multidisciplinary homeless teams. *Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee. County Supported.*

AB 1788 (Quirk-Silva) – Mental health multidisciplinary personnel team: Authorizes counties to establish a mental health multidisciplinary personnel team with the goal of identifying, assessing, and linking of incarcerated justice-involved persons diagnosed with a mental illness to supportive services within that county upon release from county jail. *Status: Passed Public Safety Committee (8-0), re-referred to Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee. Sheriff Supported; Board Support in Process*

AB 1813 (Alanis) – Senior Tenant Shallow Rental Subsidy Program of 2024: housing grants: This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish and administer a grant program for cities and counties to provide subsidies for senior citizens at risk of homelessness. *Status: Referred to Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee.*

SB 1011 (Jones) – Homeless encampments penalties: Prohibits individuals from sitting, lying, sleeping, or storing personal property on streets or sidewalks if homeless shelters are available, within 500 feet of certain locations, and allows enforcement as a misdemeanor or infraction, with notice required before any enforcement action. *Status: Referred to Public Safety Committee.*

SB 1107 (Durazo) – Public social services: county departments: mail programs: This bill would require county human services agencies to establish a program ensuring homeless residents can receive government-related mail at designated locations. This bill defines government-related mail and requires the State Department of Social Services to adopt regulations for implementing the program by January 1, 2026. *Status: Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee and Governmental Organization Committee.*

SB 1361 (Blakespear) – CEQA Exemption: exemption: local agencies: contract for providing services to people experiencing homelessness: Expands exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to include local agencies approving contracts for providing services for people experiencing homelessness. *Status: Referred to Senate Environmental Quality Committee.*

SB 1395 (Becker) – Low barrier navigation center use by right: This bill expands exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to include services contracts for homeless shelters, extends the repeal date of existing provisions regarding shelter crisis declarations, and revises the definition of Low Barrier Navigation Centers to include non-congregate and relocatable facilities. *Status: Referred to Assembly Housing and Environmental Quality Committees.*



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Office of Homeless Services**

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Title of Item

Date March 27, 2024

Presenter Ruben Mendoza

Announcements Youth Survey Update

Announcements

Within the past three months and counting, the Office of Homeless Services and its CoC partners have compiled a survey to assess the lived experience of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, similar to the most recent youth survey disseminated in 2019.

The purpose of the survey is to obtain accurate data to show the funder(s) that there indeed is a need to build capacity with respect to available services and resources offered to youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. By doing so, this data will allow the CoC to procure additional funding for youth-serving providers, which will ultimately drive down our Point In Time Count numbers. The goal is to prevent youth from becoming chronically homeless as adults, so that if a youth does become unhoused, it is brief and non-recurring.

The HUD 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress highlighted the following:

Homelessness among unaccompanied youth rose by 15.3% nationwide, however in San Bernardino County, there was a 73% increase.

The 2023 San Bernardino PITC of Unsheltered Homelessness highlighted the following:

Of the 1,732 adults interviewed, 217 or 12.5% answered 'yes' to the question 'Have you ever been in foster care?'

The data is clear:

If we don't act right now, youth and young adults will fall through the gaping holes of the system when lumped in with the adult population, which already experience lengthy waitlists to access permanent housing-related services.

PROPOSED GOVERNANCE CHARTER CHANGES

MARCH 27, 2024

INTRODUCTION

- How Did We Get Here?
- The Community Based, Informed Process of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee
- Key Charter Updates
- Regional Steering Committees have heard most of the material in the introduction, but the CoC Membership has not.

HOUSEKEEPING

- Please hold your verbal questions during the presentation as second half is for Q & A and group discussion
- Use the note charts in the room to record questions, online post questions in the chat
- Silence phones, mute, during Q and A raise hand if online
- Help ensure an organized, respectful and informative discussion

THE PROCESS

- The Governance Ad Hoc Committee Began in February 2023
- Required by HUD, inspired by the community
- Reviewed CoC Governance requirements, best practices, local structures and existing Charter
- Efforts resulted in an updated Charter for CoC consideration

DATA AND INPUT CAPTURED TO INFORM REVISIONS

- Stakeholder survey
- Board Matrix analysis
- Ad Hoc and membership orientation to CoC system responsibilities
- Current Charter alignment
- Best practices and Charters from other CoCs
- HUD Regulations and Federal Partner Guidance
- Committee member experience and expertise

THE GOAL

Engage in a process that:

- Delivered a Charter that, if implemented, fulfills all HUD requirements and fosters an effective CoC system
- Educates community about best practices
- Prepares for a system that is transparent, readily understood, collaborative, inclusive, and promotes effectiveness.

THE VISION

To effectively execute the responsibilities of the CoC through a charter that is:

- Transparent,
- Readily understood,
- Collaborative, and
- Promotes community-wide engagement of stakeholders in partnership

AD HOC COMMITTEE OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Hands-on Working Group
- Consensus oriented
- Member engagement through thoughtful discussion, in-room 'deliberation'
- Focus on what is best for the CoC / community not for individual organizations

APPROACH TAKEN TO REIMAGINE THE GOVERNANCE CHARTER

- A focus on the CoC and all its components, not just its Board
- Replace existing names/designations with HUD terms for various components, leaving room for rebranding or change
- Ensure the Charter provides guidance for compliance
- Equitably balance voices of stakeholders
- Organize the Charter by Chapters

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Roles and responsibilities of each required system component:

- CoC Membership
- CoC Board
- Collaborative Applicant / Administrative Entity
- HMIS Lead Agency
- Coordinated Entry Lead Entity

KEY FOCUS AREAS, CONTINUED

- Code of Conduct
- Conflict of Interest
- Principles of Decorum

THE ROAD TO TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Prior to presentation to CoC
- Report to Board (October)
- Charter information and Listening Sessions – Regional Meetings (November/ December/January)
- Office Hours and community information (November/December)
- Update and review final drafts (December - March)
- CoC Membership Presentation TODAY)

REVIEW, IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSITION TIMELINE

- Update community on the proposed Charter from the Ad Hoc Committee
- CoC Charter roster of voting members finalized
- Public review and comment period
- CoC votes to adopt, amend, or reject Charter updates
- Implementation of Charter changes begins

KEY CHANGES – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A major outcome of the Ad Hoc process was identification of the roles and responsibilities for the HUD-required system structures.

A chart of the core responsibilities for establishing and operating the CoC identifying three levels of responsibility for the required actions:

- Authority/Oversight
- Lead for Implementation
- Support roles

The Committee reached consensus on these roles, which were then used to draft the Charter Chapters.

KEY CHANGES – BOARD

Defines a Board selection process that:

- Broadens who is eligible to be on the Board
- Places more seats by nomination and election by the CoC
- Has approximately one-third of the members in each category
- Satisfies the requirement of membership input into Board selection
- Formalizes the practice of having staff from the Collaborative Applicant (OHS) act as CoC Secretary

KEY CHANGES – ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT

- HUD requires the CoC to select a Collaborative Applicant to apply for HUD CoC funds.
- The State requires an Administrative Entity for homeless funds allocated to the CoC. This role is now included.
- Collaborative Applicant and Administrative Entity roles will be fulfilled by the same 'administrative agent' – Office of Homeless Services (OHS).
- New forms, MOUs, and companion documents are being developed to implement the system changes and provide greater clarity, if approved.

KEY CHANGES – COMMITTEES

- During the final stages of preparation of the proposed Charter, there continued to be consideration of the applicability of the Brown Act.

KEY CHANGES – COMMITTEES, CONTINUED

A review of the committees identified which Committees are Standing Committees.

Standing Committees and any committee named in the Charter must function under the Brown Act.

KEY CHANGES – COMMITTEES, CONTINUED

Several external community groups, short term task-oriented groups, and advisory committees were removed and replaced with broader language.

Liaisons to community-based groups were added.

CoC Board, Regional Steering, By-Laws & Membership, Oversight & Review were retained.

MOVING AHEAD AFTER TODAY

Period for public comment (2-3 weeks as determined by group)

Compile FAQ responses to input received during public comment period

Voting date established

Action to adopt, amend, or reject charter changes

Upon CoC Approval:

- Call for Nominations (6 weeks/May - June)
- Nominating Committee Report and selection process (June)
- New Member orientation (June)

CLOSING COMMENTS

- The recommended Governance Charter is imperfect
- It does not satisfy all the individual desires of the members
- The consensus is that in principle it puts the community in a better position: HUD Compliance, opportunity to enhance CoC Membership participation, facilitates improved governance and operations
- The Charter and processes will be ‘living / breathing’ guidance that will be refined over time

SUMMARY

The Charter is just a document. Benefits for the community will only be realized if there is a willingness to work together in good faith and transparency, looking forward to a vibrant effective system of care that improves the lives of those at risk of and experiencing homelessness in the San Bernardino CoC.

THANK YOU!

to the

Governance Ad Hoc Committee

The ICH Board

The Regional Steering Committees

The Collaborative Applicant & Staff

And Other Community Stakeholders

Community Input Session Instructions