

# **BYLAWS OF THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

## **San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership Interagency Council on Homelessness**

### **BY-LAWS**

**Adopted March 22, 2010**

**Amended August 15, 2018**

**Amended August 28, 2019**

**Amended May 18, 2022**

**Amended June 28, 2023**

*A Continuum of Care is a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. The mission of the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership is to provide a system of care network that is inclusive, well planned, coordinated, evaluated and accessible to all who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless.*

#### **Article I**

##### **Purpose**

The Interagency Council on Homelessness (“ICH”) is a vital component of the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership (“Partnership”). The ICH serves as the policy making body of the Partnership and oversees the implementation of the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness in San Bernardino County (“10-Year Strategy”). The ICH will focus on resource development to ensure the funding of homeless projects and 10-Year Strategy recommendations. In addition, ICH serves as the HUD-designated primary decision-making group and oversight board of the City of San Bernardino & County (hereinafter referred to as the “geographic area”) Continuum of Care for the Homeless (CA-609) funding process, (hereinafter referred to as the “CoC”).

#### **Article II**

##### **Vision**

Provide leadership in creating a “comprehensive countywide network” of service delivery for the homeless population. Identify families and individuals at-risk of homelessness and circumstances leading to homelessness through facilitation of better communication, planning, coordination, and cooperation among all entities that provide services and/or resources for the relief of homelessness in the County of San Bernardino in a united effort to eliminate homelessness county-wide.

#### **Article III**

##### **Duties**

The ICH is charged with directing, coordinating and evaluating all of the activities related to implementation of the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness. The ICH Members are directed to report progress on the implementation of the 10-Year Strategy to their colleagues and constituents following each meeting of the ICH. The ICH will promote

collaborative partnerships among homeless providers and stakeholders throughout San Bernardino County on a regional basis in order to carry out implementation activities and will develop resources to ensure the funding of homeless projects and 10-Year Strategy recommendations.

As the oversight board of the CoC, the ICH duties are:

1. To ensure that the CoC is meeting all of the responsibilities assigned to it by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations including:
  - a. The operation and oversight of the local CoC;
  - b. Designation and operation of a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS);
    - i. Designate a single HMIS for the geographic area;
    - ii. Designate an eligible applicant to manage the CoC's HMIS, which will be known as the HMIS Lead;
    - iii. Ensure consistent participation of recipients and sub-recipients of CoC and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding in the HMIS.
    - iv. Ensure the HMIS is administered in compliance with all requirements prescribed by HUD.
  - c. The development of a CoC plan that includes outreach, engagement, assessment, annual gap analysis of the homeless needs and services available, prevention strategies, shelter and housing supportive services, and HUD CoC annual and biennial requirements;
2. To represent the relevant organizations and projects serving homeless subpopulations;
3. To support homeless persons in their movement from homelessness to economic stability and affordable permanent housing within a supportive community;
4. To be inclusive of all the needs of all of geographic area's homeless population, including the special service and housing needs of homeless sub-populations;
5. To facilitate responses to issues and concerns that affect the agencies funded by the CoC that is beyond those addressed in the annual CoC application process;
6. To consult with recipients and sub-recipients of CoC funding to establish performance targets appropriate for population and program type, monitor recipient and sub-recipient performance, evaluate outcomes, and take action against poor performers; and
7. To evaluate outcomes of projects funded under the County of San Bernardino CoC program including the ESG.

## **Article IV** **Membership**

### **A. ICH Membership Composition**

The membership of the ICH shall be broadly based with representation from all sectors of the community, including but not limited to: homeless service providers, representatives of federal, state and local government, corporations, persons with lived experience, and concerned individuals. Due to the large size of San Bernardino County (22,000+ square miles) and to encourage collaboration among Members, representation on ICH will be on a regional basis. The regions will be as follows:

West Valley Region: Encompasses the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Upland, and the surrounding unincorporated communities.

- Central Valley Region: Encompasses the cities of Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino, Yucaipa, and the surrounding unincorporated communities.
- East Valley Region: Encompasses the cities of Needles, Twenty-nine Palms, Yucca Valley, and the surrounding unincorporated communities.
- Desert Region: Encompasses the cities of Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, Victorville, and the surrounding unincorporated communities.
- Mountain Region: Encompasses the city of Big Bear and the unincorporated communities which include Blue Jay, Cedar Glen, Cedarpines Park, Crestline, Forest Falls, Green Valley Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Rimforest, Running Springs, Skyforest, Sugarloaf, and Twin Peaks.

A Member whose service area covers more than one Region shall designate a Region as their primary service area. Members may participate in meetings and activities outside of their designated Region, but may only hold the office of Regional Representative in their designated Region

The ICH membership shall be composed of no more than 19 Members.

1. One (1) Member from the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors;
2. One (1) Member from the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors;
3. City Representative (West Valley Region)
4. City Representative (Central Valley Region)
5. City Representative (East Valley Region)
6. City Representative (Desert Region)
7. City Representative (Mountain Region)
8. Representative from the San Bernardino County Law & Justice Group
9. San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
10. Director of Community Development & Housing Agency
11. San Bernardino County Human Services Representative<sup>1</sup>
12. Director of the Department of Behavioral Health
13. Director of the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino
14. Homeless Provider Network (West Valley Region)
15. Homeless Provider Network (Central Valley Region)
16. Homeless Provider Network (East Valley Region)
17. Homeless Provider Network (Desert Region)
18. Homeless Provider Network (Mountain Region)
19. Youth With Lived Experience of Homelessness

---

<sup>1</sup> This member shall represent all agencies in the San Bernardino County Human Services Group and may be filled by an Executive Officer overseeing the San Bernardino County Human Services group or a Director of any of the following San Bernardino County Departments: Aging and Adult Services, Child Support Services, Children and Family Services, Preschool Services, Public Health, Transitional Assistance, and Veteran's Affairs.

City Representatives will be selected by the City Selection Committee of San Bernardino County (Government Code 50270 *et. seq.*). Should a city seat not be filled within thirty (30) days of a vacancy, the seat will default to an at-large position from the same region, with said appointment being made by the ICH Members. City representatives are not required to be council members but must be at the level of a department director or higher.

The HPN Chair will automatically serve as the Designated Member, as defined below, from his/her region. All other regions shall be represented by the HPN Regional Committee Chair.

Should a vacancy occur in a HPN Regional Committee Chair position, the Alternate Member, as defined below, shall represent the region until a new Chair is elected by the regional membership.

Regional representatives will also participate in their respective regional subcommittee.

#### **B. Membership Application and Approval Process**

All listed ICH Members shall annually, prior to the first regularly scheduled ICH meeting of the year, designate in writing the names of the (1) individual designated to serve as the voting representative on the ICH for the calendar year (“Designated Member”), and (2) the alternate (“Alternate Member”). Designees recommended in lieu of the above-listed positions as the “Designated Member” must comply with the application process described below. Youth with Lived Experience of Homelessness shall not go through the application process described below but shall be appointed by the Youth Advisory Board.

Solicitation for ICH membership applications for unfilled positions, when applicable, shall begin no less than four (4) weeks after the vacancy of an individual ICH Member. The Office of Homeless Services (OHS) on behalf of the ICH shall circulate a “Call for Applications” to the appropriate organization or parties. The “Call for Applications” will set forth the criteria for appointment to the ICH, and will set the deadline for the receipt of said applications.

All applications must be submitted on forms provided by OHS and accompanied by a Letter of Recommendation from the sponsoring ICH Member agency or organization or an individual Member of the ICH.

Applications for ICH membership shall be reviewed by the Bylaws and Membership Committee within thirty (30) days following the application due date. The Bylaws and Membership Committee will recommend candidates for appointment to the ICH at the next regular ICH meeting following the Bylaws and Membership Committee’s review of applications. OHS shall prepare a synopsis of the recommended applicant’s qualifications for the ICH. OHS shall forward the recommendations and synopses to the ICH prior to the next regularly scheduled ICH meeting at which the approval of new Members will occur.

#### **C. Membership Terms of Service**

Once annually designated to the ICH pursuant to Article IV (B), Designated and Alternate Members shall serve an unlimited term unless replaced in a subsequent annual designation made pursuant to Article IV (B), or the relationship is terminated pursuant to the terms of Article IV(F).

#### **D. Membership Responsibilities**

All Designated Members are expected to attend all ICH meetings. Alternate Members shall not attend more than three (3) regularly scheduled ICH meetings each calendar year without Chair approval. The Chair may approve Alternate Member attendance at more than three (3) regularly scheduled ICH meetings in a calendar year in the following instances: Designated Member illness, illness of an immediate family member of a Designated Member, or other documented emergency circumstances in which regular attendance is rendered infeasible. Designated Member absences will be noted in the minutes. Other Designated Member responsibilities may include:

1. Providing oral and/or written comment on issues being discussed by the ICH;
2. Assisting in the development and implementation of task forces, subcommittees and/or committees necessary to conduct the business of the ICH;
3. Supporting and participating in training, summits, and activities sponsored by the ICH;
4. Active participation in the annual Point-in-Time Count;
5. Reviewing and commenting on documents, such as those concerning the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Grant funding; and
6. Providing regular reports and updates regarding ICH activities and progress back to Member agencies (i.e., inclusion of ICH agenda and minutes in the agency's official public records).

#### **E. Membership Voting**

1. A Designated Member representing more than one Agency or Office shall receive only one vote.
2. Each listed ICH Member shall have a Designated Member with the authority to vote on behalf of the listed ICH Member and may establish an Alternate Member to vote in the absence of the Designated Member, subject to the attendance limitations set forth in Article IV(D).

#### **F. Membership Vacancies**

1. Designated Membership ends when:
  - a. A Designated Member resigns or is unable to serve for justified reasons; or
  - b. A Designated Member is deemed inactive by the ICH upon the relevant facts that have been presented; or
  - c. A Designated Member is replaced by the sponsoring agency or organization; or
  - d. A Designated Member is terminated by a majority of the ICH for just cause:
    - i. Charged with a crime that would subject the Designated Member to debarment, suspension, disqualification or other exclusion from participating in a federally funded transaction pursuant to federal law.
    - ii. Unprofessional behavior.
    - iii. Violation of these bylaws.
    - iv. Conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the ICH;

- v. Lack of participation in three (3) regular ICH meetings in a calendar year without prior Chair approval as set forth in Article IV(D) above.
    - vi. Just cause as defined by the majority of the ICH.
2. Termination of a Designated Member's term does not terminate the sponsoring agency or organization's representation on the ICH.
3. If a Designated Member misses three regular ICH meetings within a calendar year period, without Chair approval provided under Article IV(D) above, the Chair shall submit a written request to the Designated Member requesting a written response of the ability of the Designated Member to continue participation on the ICH. If the Chair does not receive a written response within thirty (30) calendar days, then the Chair may ask that a new Designated Member be approved pursuant to Article IV(A) or (B) above, as applicable.

## **Article V**

### **Officers**

The ICH shall elect from among its Designated Members, a Chair and Vice Chair. Each officer shall serve for a term of two (2) years commencing October 1 and ending September 30 of the second year.

#### **A. Selection of Officers**

Officers shall be nominated by the membership and elected to office by a majority vote of the Members present at a meeting in which a quorum has been established.

#### **B. Duties of Officers**

1. The duties of the Chair shall include:
  - a. Provide oversight, direction and leadership to the ICH.
  - b. Conduct and facilitate ICH Meetings.
  - c. Set the agenda with the assistance of OHS staff.
  - d. Appoint Committee Chairs.
2. The duties of the Vice Chair shall include:
  - a. Perform all of the Chair's duties in the absence of the Chair, unless the Bylaws of the ICH provide otherwise.
  - b. Perform other duties as requested.

Note: In the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, a OHS staff member shall chair the meeting(s).

## **Article VI**

### **Vacancies of Officers**

Should the office of Chair become vacant prior to the end of the present term, the Vice-Chair shall complete the term of office. The position of the Vice-Chair shall be filled by a special vote at the next regular ICH meeting.

## **Article VII**

### **Meetings**

#### **A. Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings of the ICH shall be held at a time and date determined by the Members, or as modified by a majority vote of the Members at any regular meeting where a quorum has been established.

#### **B. Special Meetings**

A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chair, or at the request of the majority of the Members, by delivering personally or by mail or electronically written notice of the date and purpose of the meeting to each Member in accordance with the Brown Act (Government Code section 54950, *et seq.*).

#### **C. Governing Rules**

Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Brown Act and under Robert's Rules of Order. Each Designated Member will be provided with a copy of Roberts Rules of Order at installation.

## **Article VIII**

### **Quorum**

One half of the Members in good standing, plus one, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The affirmative votes of at least a majority of the Members constituting a quorum at a duly scheduled meeting shall be required to take any action.

A Member in good standing is a Member of the ICH who has met membership and attendance requirements.

## **Article IX**

### **Agenda**

The agenda for the regular meetings shall be prepared in consultation with the Chair and distributed by OHS to each Member in accordance with the Brown Act. The agenda should be accompanied by agenda support materials and shall be posted per the Brown Act requirements.

## **Article X**

### **Agenda Deadline**

All matters to be considered for the agenda must be submitted to the OHS at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the meeting.

**Article XI**

**Minutes**

Minutes shall be taken and distributed by the OHS or designee. The Chair and the OHS shall review and preliminarily approve the minutes prior to distribution. Minutes shall normally go out with the agenda for approval at the next meeting.

**Article XII**

**Amendments**

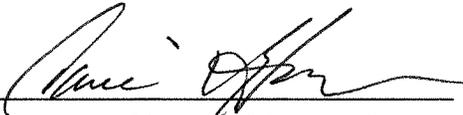
These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Members present at a meeting in which a quorum has been established in compliance with Robert's Rules of Order.

---

**CERTIFICATE OF OHS**

I certify that the above bylaws, consisting of seven (7) pages, including this page, are the bylaws of this body as amended by the Members.

Date: 7/3/2023

By:   
Carrie Harmon – Director of Community Development & Housing