

Office of Homeless Services

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San Bernardino CA 92415



San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership
Joint Meeting of Mountain Homeless Provider Network
and Mountain Regional Steering Committee

Monday, October 16, 2023 • 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

IN PERSON & Via Zoom Teleconference

This meeting will be conducted pursuant to California Government Code
Section 54953(e) and is hybrid: in-person for Board, et al, & Zoom for others

In person site:

St. Richard Episcopal Church Hall, 28708 CA Hwy-18, Sky Forest, CA

Teleconference info:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83056213419?pwd=aVVUSy92c00xSWlqaHJRODJk0F0UT09

Meeting ID: 830 5621 3419 + Passcode: 534180

Dial in for just audio: (669) 444-9171

AGENDA

Table with 2 columns: Agenda Item and Presenter. Rows include Opening Remarks, Past Minutes, Action Items, Presentation, Discussion Items, Closing, and Next Meeting details.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership is to provide a system of care that is inclusive, well planned, coordinated and evaluated and is accessible to all who are homeless and those at-risk of becoming homeless.

THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY HOMELESS PARTNERSHIP MEETING FACILITY IS ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. IF ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES OR OTHER AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES ARE NEEDED IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC MEETING, REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES AT LEAST THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE PARTNERSHIP MEETING.

**Minutes for San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services
Joint meeting of the Mountain Homeless Provider Network (HPN) and
Mountain Regional Steering Committee (RSC)**

These Minutes awaiting approval at Oct. 9th meeting

Date **September 11, 2023**
Scheduled Time: 1:30pm-3pm

Location: In Person at St. Richard Parish Hall and via Zoom Meeting ID: **830 5621 3419** + Passcode: **534180**

Minutes recorded and transcribed by: Gary Bradley, Secretary

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER	ACTION/OUTCOME
Call to Order Welcome and Introductions	Wendell Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Wendell Wilson ▪ This meeting was conducted IN PERSON at St. Richard’s Parish Hall in Sky Forest, and via teleconference pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953(e). ▪ Attendees welcomed and introduced, and roll call of members taken. A quorum+ was present—8 of 8 members ▪ ATTENDANCE: (15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Voting Members Present (6 of 8):</i> Annamieke Stalcup (<i>BearVly Comm. Health</i>); Sue O’Strander (<i>Comm. Dev. Big Bear Lake</i>); Shonda Szabo (<i>Bear Valley USD</i>); Wendell Wilson (<i>Co-Chair & MHC</i>); Joscelyn Field (<i>Rim Family Services</i>); Paul Fournier (<i>Lutheran Social Services</i>); -- <i>Members Absent:</i> Stephanie Hedrick-Harwell, LMFT (<i>Behavioral Health, SBCo</i>); Quinton Page–<i>Co-Chairman–(DOVES+SBCo Interagency Council on Homelessness)</i>; ▪ Secretary: Gary Bradley (<i>MHC-V.P.</i>) ▪ Other Attendees today (5): Sue Walker (<i>Pres., MHC</i>), Cynthia Robles (<i>Rolling Start</i>); Miranda Jiles (<i>Keys N.P.</i>); Andrea Barraza (<i>Symba Center--High Desert</i>); Marcus Dillard (<i>Chief of Homeless Services-SB Co.</i>) Unnamed Participant (<i>LABST</i>)
APPROVAL		
Minutes	Wendell	Minutes for August 14, 2023 were approved without objection . W/out formal motion & requested by Wendell Wilson
ACTION ITEM		
New Voting Member	Wendell	Joscelyn Field (<i>Rim Fam. Serv.</i>) is new Director of RFS. Wendell called for vote to admit Joscelyn as new Member. Unanimous consent.
PRESENTATION		
MHC’s efforts for “Tiny Homes” as Mountain Shelter	Wendell Wilson	<p>Reflection on 9/11: – Prior to beginning his presentation, Wendell reflected on this day 22 years ago. More firefighters have died in the time between 9/11/2021 and today than died that original tragic day. Many from the chemical exposures that day and following day(s).</p> <p>PRESENTATION: In the midst of the evils in our world like the 9/11 experience, we here in the mountains have the opportunity to bring good. Clear evidence from studies of the long-lasting negative repercussions of living in homelessness for any length of time – esp. the children of homelessness. The more we can do, the better, esp. for the children.</p>

		<p>My topic embraces the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tiny homes concept for Homeless; 2. Emergency/Cold Weather shelter needs; and 3. History of how housing has changed dramatically in the last five years. 4. A lead-in to a discussion on how we might accomplish an Emergency Shelter solution, since right now it is a project in Limbo and needs resolution. <p>The current housing trends have come about because of new economic difficulties, including Covid’s impact. Homeless has become rampant. Hence the Tiny Home solution has emerged, beginning four or five years ago. Especially in villages of Tiny Homes. But not here in SB-County. Why? Check with what was happening for two years in Victorville with Military Tents at the Fairgrounds. 21 people per tent with cots —1 for men, 1 for women, 1 for families and porta-potties/wash stations and with volunteers overseeing. Open when temp was predicted for below 40° -- open a 6pm with soup & sandwiches also w/volunteers; close in the a.m. for cleaning, etc. At the time the city and county were not excited about the plan, but the state allowed it to be done during Covid.</p> <p>That relates to what we have been trying to do for mountains—to get SOME kind of shelter option up here. Getting all the pieces = a challenge. The land, the \$\$, the equipment (tents or simple structures); personnel, volunteers. Sacramento did something I wish we could do. Tiny Homes site for 90-day stay. One in Banning where they put in sort of sheds by the freeway to help people off the streets. Sadly, their first section burned down around Christmas but was rebuilt. So we’re working along those sort of lines—Tiny homes, sheds, tents—whatever is possible.</p> <p>With the County overseeing, some planning was done and BBL city came up with several elements of a plan, including designating 10 specific lots where some homeless housing or shelter could possibly take place and discussed re-zoning where necessary. While some guidelines are too restrictive – only six beds allowed for each shelter, they DID establish that the usual “hoops” for set-up could be by-passed as they responded to the state legislature’s concept of “By-Right” of people to be sheltered. Unfortunately, the ten sites are not at all actually possible due to various ownership issues.</p> <p>The County had a Forum in Twin Peaks on this issue and will work on practical guidelines to work toward accomplishing some sort of shelter, but when – that’s up in the air.</p> <p>So, with all the delays, I have tried to come up with a more immediate solution. I call it “Create-a-Shelter.” Several companies have quick-set-up structures/sheds that could serve as “housing” – not permanent or even temporary housing, just quick-emergency shelter. But I have started adding specifications to those existing shed-structures to be more sturdy and longer-lived, esp., for our mountain needs, such as 2x6 instead of 2x4 to provide more insulation, more of a pitch to roof, etc. But most “codes” allow for 10x12 or even 10x16 size shed-like structure without permit. Add a window, electric heater, light, and plug for cellphone charge via extension corded power to nearby building (obviously not code acceptable, but temporary and using extra-thick extension type cord, perhaps even conduit-ed under-ground.) So, not any sort of permanent dwelling, just shelter for bad weather time OR slightly longer time. Also, of course, port-a-potty with wash station – to be removed by port-a-potty company after emergency passes. (fee, of course). This, because, plumbing and sewer connection is out of the question for most situations I am imagining. I’m thinking not permanently affixed shed, but on 6’x8’ beams to be lifted off the ground and flat-bed-trucked to a different location such as from church to church.</p> <p>When I refer to it as “Create-a-Shelter” there would be continual improvements suggestible. Upgrades might extend to adding a microwave or even small refrigerator. These items are moving more toward longer-term habitation. Challenge of course for electrical requirements. Next level—definitely longer term is plumbing but quite a bit more expensive.</p>
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		<p>Arguing for longer-term use of the “shed” housing is the considerable savings on what MHC spends on motel stays. Money for all this is clearly a major (not the only) challenge.</p> <p>So, this is currently a brainstorming/feasible study. I checked with someone about cost to build the more semi-permanent more sturdy-type shed housing, including ramp for handicap access and he came up with \$12k to \$13K per unit.</p> <p>One last comment –the State legislature has come up with a response to “NIMBY” problem... starting July 1, Assem. Bill 2011 says that a city or county cannot block a developer or turn down a project for providing affordable housing by resorting to existing zoning blocks. (This happened to us 2 yrs ago or so when we investigated a vacant rehab property that could not be converted to multi-residential use because of unchangeable zoning.)</p> <p>Oh, one more thing – to discuss: Built For Zero that County is discussing. Couple of things that stand out re: BFZ – keeping track of all the homeless in a unified consortium of existing agencies – and other provider response (incl. landlords)</p> <p>So, think about for discussion:</p> <p>1. where we could put our shelters 2. how we could do it. 3. where we would get the \$\$.</p> <p>So now: Q&A:</p> <p>(Paul): What role does County or OES (Office of Emergency Services) play in all this? (Wendell) I haven’t checked. I have been more focused on the planning and the land/site use. But the County DOES seem to say that they are mandated to do something in response to the need. Currently, though, still rather non-committal. And you’re right – OES must have a role.</p> <p>(Paul): Back in Covid-time, I tried to get a response to get emergency shelter plan and no response from OES. There is no “there” there, it seems.</p> <p>(Wendell): OES seems to be focused more on the general community and very little on the most at-risk: homeless folk.</p> <p>(Paul): Any thoughts on the issues that we would run into in cooperation with the churches? (Wendell) Knowing the interest the churches have to help, but find it too risky to house folks INSIDE their buildings, the shed/housing-on-their-lot works.</p> <p>(Gary): Having had this discussion this past month at St. Richards, the difficulty of housing in our church bldg. is compounded by how small the congregation (24 on Sunday) is to have volunteers present for the duration of an emergency. BUT I think the idea of something on the parking lot sounds like it would get traction if I should bring it up to the Board (Bishop’s Committee). And starting with one church and one or two “sheds” as a test case makes more sense than building 12 and hoping to land them somewhere. (Wendell) Ha! Good thinking.</p> <p>(Paul): What would you say, Sue O’Strander, re: city response. (Sue O’S.) Because we have the “By Right” policy a church even not in a C-5 zone (and most are in residential) could not be blocked or hampered by code against providing shelter to people who “By Right” can claim the need for it. This applies to some degree to the County response beyond BBL-City as well although I’m not clear on their obligations by the state guideline of “By Right.” Here are:</p> <p>Big Bear Lake City’s Municipal section addressing emergency shelters (Section 17.35.240):</p> <p>https://library.municode.com/ca/big_bear_lake/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=MUCO_TIT17LAUS_CH17.35COPUZO_17.35.240EMSH and a link to the City’s Zoning map:</p> <p>https://www.citybigbearlake.com/images/DOWNLOADS/CITY_DEPARTMENTS/Planning/City_of_Big_Bear_Lake_Zoning_Map.pdf</p> <p>(Wendell) Sue Walker, tell us about ICH discussion with regard to Built For Zero. (Sue) Don Smith presented well and the ICH chairperson said, further study needed, so nothing done.</p> <p>(Paul) Timeline for your dream? (Wendell): ASAP - I’d like to start for this winter but be gearing up well for next winter.</p> <p>(Wendell) That’s it. Any last comments. If not, we’ll end early.</p> <p>(Gary) We have a couple of people who joined after opening intro’s. Andrea & Marcus (moved to next section below)</p>
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DISCUSSION ITEMS		
Member Roundtable Public Comment	Wendell	<p>(<i>Andrea</i>) New to area. With an agency many have probably not heard of serving the High Desert: Symba Center.</p> <p>(Marcus Dillard): I'm new Chief of Homeless Services-SBCo. I come from Riverside Co. where we were more involved in delivering services to the community rather than the administrative component that this SBCo focuses upon. So there are some structural things that we're changing. We plan to be more of a resource to the day-to-day movement of bodies that are homeless. We are going to be tackling a multi-disciplinary approach to ending homelessness here. We'll bring in some providers for training at different levels of the County. We will work in this department in tandem with the Community Development Dept. for community revitalization. You'll begin to see us being more active as we go forward. There are good folks here but we're currently somewhat disjointed, so we'll be working on that. I'm not exaggerating to say that in Riverside County, we got to a point where we could sometimes—not always—take a person from first contact to housing in one single day because of the ability of the agencies to truly work together, so that's definitely a goal.</p> <p>I've been doing this work for 19 years, starting at the bottom with outreach, so I have a clear vision of what needs to be done and I'm ready to work at it! Because I've actually done it, not just someone in a nice coat coming in, I've been there!</p> <p>Marcus spoke for several more minutes on his vision. You are URGED to tune in to next month's meeting of this HPN+RSC of the Mountains to hear his complete PRESENTATION!</p>
FINAL ITEMS		
Other	Wendell	(<i>Wendell</i>): Can we count on you, Marcus to Present next month? (Yes!)
Adjournment	Wendell.	Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m. (1 Hour, 24 min.).
Next Meeting:		The next joint meeting of the Mountain-HPN +RSC: Monday, Oct 9, 2023 from 1:30 to 3:00pm ,-- In-Person at St. Richard's & <i>Via Zoom</i> Tele-conference. Presentation: Marcus Dillard, Chief of SBCo Homeless Services

Voting Members:

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address	Best Phone
Quinton	Page	DOVES	qpage@doves4help.org	909-866-1546
Shonda	Szabo	Bear Valley USD	shonda_szabo@bearvalleyusd.org	951-532-0830
Sue	O'Strander	Comm.Dev.-City of Big Bear Lake (<i>passing to Nathan</i>)	sostrander@citybigbearlake.com	909-866-5831-ext.130
Nathan	Castillo	Comm.Dev.-City of Big Bear Lake (PENDING)	ncastillo@citybigbearlake.com	909-866-5831-ext.128
Joscelyn	Field	Rim Family Services (NEW)	jfield@rimfamilyservices.org	909-283-0221
Paul	Fournier	Lutheran Family Services	paulfour@gmail.com	909-307-4467
Annamieke	Stalcup	Patient Care Navigator Bear Valley Community Health Services	annemieke.stalcup@bvchd.com	909-866-6501
Stephanie	Hedrick-Harwell	Clinical Therapist II Behavior Health-Homeless & Supportive Services	Stephanie.Hedrick-Harwell@dbh.sbcounty.gov	909-895.2356
Wendell	Wilson	Mountain Homeless Coalition (chairperson)	wendellw@mtnhomeless.com	360-350-8692