



# Merced City and County Continuum of Care General Membership Meeting

**Date:** April 4, 2024  
**Times:** 11:00am – 12:30pm  
**Location:** Virtual Conference via Microsoft Teams  
 Phone Number: 1 (323) 676-6251  
 Meeting ID: 260 169 058 728  
*\*This meeting will be recorded\**

## AGENDA

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>I. Call to Order</b></p>  | Matt Serratto   |
| <p><b>II. Roll Call</b></p>   | Collaborative Applicant   |
| <p><b>III. Notice to Public</b><br/>         At least 48 hours prior to each regular Board/General membership meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the Merced CoC website at <a href="http://www.mercedcoc.org">www.mercedcoc.org</a>.</p>  | Collaborative Applicant   |
| <p><b>IV. Public Comment</b><br/>         Matters under the jurisdiction of the CoC and not on this posted agenda may be addressed by the general public at this time. The CoC governance charter prohibits the CoC from taking any action on a matter that is not on the posted agenda unless it is determined to be an emergency by the CoC. Any member of the public wishing to address the CoC during the “Public Comment” period is permitted to be heard once for up to three minutes, per person. Please state your name for the record.</p> | Matt Serratto   |
| <p><b>V. Consent Agenda Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Approval of Agenda</li> <li>B. Approval of Minutes: March 7, 2024</li> </ul>  | Matt Serratto   |
| <p><b>VI. Community Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Merced Navigation Center</li> <li>B. Housing Voucher Set-Aside</li> <li>C. Distributive Housing/Unincorporated Housing</li> <li>D. Homeless Court</li> <li>E. Housing Developments</li> <li>F. 1213 V St. Project</li> </ul>   | Jennifer Carr<br>Jesenia Aguilar<br>David Carr<br>David Carr<br>John Ceccoli<br>Rebecca Peter |
| <p><b>VII. Chair Comments</b></p>   | Matt Serratto   |
| <p><b>VIII. Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. <b>Board Vote</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Report Approval</li> <li>2. Encampment Resolution Funding - Round 3</li> </ul> </li> <li>B. <b>CoC General Membership Applications – General Membership Vote</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Removal of General Member: Sweet Ethics, pursuant to Merced CoC Governance Charter Article 4 (4.6)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | Collaborative Applicant   |
| <p><b>IX. Board Information &amp; Possible New Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. HHAP 5 Submission Updates</li> <li>B. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application</li> </ul>   | Collaborative Applicant   |

**X. Collaborative Applicant Report Out**

Collaborative Applicant

- A. April Contracts Monitoring

**XI. CoC Committees Report Out – *New Information***

- A. HMIS
- B. CES
- C. Youth
- D. Health
- E. Faith
- F. Outreach

Christy McCammond  
Christy McCammond  
Lucia Tejada  
Donna Chin/Linda Dash  
Lee Greenawalt  
Sargeez Teimoorshahi

**CoC Committees with Vacant Chair/Vice Chairs – No Report Out**

- G. Sustainability
- H. Planning and Development
- I. Lived Experience

**XII. CoC General Membership comments**

Matt Serratto

**XIII. Adjournment**

Next meeting: May 2, 2024 11:00am – 12:30pm, Microsoft Teams

Matt Serratto



## Merced City and County Continuum of Care General Membership Meeting

**Date:** March 7, 2024  
**Times:** 11:00am – 12:30pm  
**Location:** Virtual Conference via Microsoft Teams  
Phone Number: 1 (323) 676-6251  
Meeting ID: 294 694 828 #

### MINUTES

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Merced City and County Continuum of Care (CoC) was called to order at 11:05am on March 7, 2024, via Microsoft Teams by Steve Tietjen.

**II. Roll Call**

**Continuum of Care Board Members in Attendance:**

Josh Pedrozo, Margaret Simmons, Matthew Serrato, Ray Reyna, Stephen Hammond, Steve Roussos, and Steve Tietjen

**Continuum of Care Members in Attendance:**

ACE Overcomers, California Central Valley Journey for Justice, City of Los Banos, Dignity Health, Healthy House Within a Match Coalition, Human Services Agency, Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Merced County Community Action Agency, Merced County Office of Education, Mission Merced Incorporated, Sierra Saving Grace, Turning Point, VA- Central California Healthcare, and Westcare- San Joaquin Valley Veterans.

**Non-Member Community Organizations in Attendance:**

Department of Workforce Investments

**III. Notice to Public – Read by Steve Tietjen**

**IV. Public Comment**

Christy McCammond stated that City of Los Banos was hosting Outreach event from 8AM-12PM on March 8, 2024.

**V. Consent Agenda Items**

A motion was made by Stephen Hammond to approve the Public Comment and Consent Agenda Items and seconded by Steve Roussos. Motion carried unanimously at 11:13 am.

**VI. Community Projects**

**A. Merced Navigation Center**

Jennifer Carr reported that the Navigation Center is at full capacity at 76 people and 16 dogs. 89 people have been housed and 835 individuals have been served.

**B. Emergency Housing Vouchers**

Jesenia Aguilar reported that 65 clients have been housed with the vouchers and 3 clients are currently searching for housing with vouchers in hand.

**C. Distributive Housing**

David Carr reported that there were 380 people served, 60 people housed. 24 beds filled with 1 bed open. Los Banos has 18 beds filled with two beds open.

**D. Homeless Court**

David Carr reported that 59 people have graduated to date.

**E. Housing Developments**

John Ceccoli reported that there are three clients pending Project Home Key and three outstanding applications. 1213 V St Project is running at 50% capacity and has been operational since December. There are 41 vacancies committed to behavioral health through Bridge Housing and should start getting filled soon. The 1213 project has weekly meetings with staff. The Rescue Mission is facilitating a weekly meeting focused on affordable Tiny Home development.

Iris Gunther-Battles stated that the 41 individuals have been identified and will be moved into 1213 V St. soon. Staff have been identified and is currently in the onboarding process. Alexandra Pierce relayed that the V St. project is awaiting finalization of the facility's insurance documents. Once the process is completed, the committee will present the item before the Board.

Alexandra Pierce reported that Project Home Key on Park received an agreement between the development sponsor, the state, and the county. John Ceccoli stated that the CoC does not anticipate the two home key projects receiving additional awards but informed the CoC that awards are still being made. John Ceccoli stated that he and Alexandra Pierce would be attending the Merced County Association of Government meetings later in the month.

**VII. Chair Comments - None**

**VIII. Action Items**

**A. General Membership Vote**

See Her presented the Regionally Coordinated Action Plan and highlighted the changes made to the plan since its completion in January 26, 2024. The commentary period for the plan ended on February 9, 2024, and was reviewed and incorporated into the Merced CoC regional plan. Motion from Lee Greenawalt, seconded from Josh Pedrozo. Vote passed unanimously at 11:36 am.

Application from Golden Valley Health Center's membership was proposed for approval to join the CoC General Membership. No comments or concerns were shared by any in attendance. Motion from Holly Newlon. Second from Steve Hammond. Vote passed unanimously at 11:38 am.

**B. Board Vote**

Jewel Wise presented Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 5. This item sought permission to accept the funding proposed to review and adopt the regionally coordinated homeless action plan and review and adopt the Memorandum of Understanding. Motion from Steve Tietjen, second from Ray Reyna. Vote passed unanimously at 11:42 am.

Jewel Wise presented the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 5 Allocations. Christy McCammond expressed concerns regarding the PHA allocations and requested a later conversation with the CoC and Merced County for restoring funding to the City of Los Banos for emergency shelter needs. Motion from Stephen Hammond, second from Steve Tietjen. Vote passed unanimously 12:03 pm.

**IX. Board Information & Possible New Action Items**

Chairman Matthew Serratto welcomed New Board Member, Kristynn Sullivan, who will be joining starting April.

**X. Reports – CA Information Report Out**

See Her updated that Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grant was submitted on February 15, 2024. Award date should be announced by June 2024.

Jewel Wise updated that Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) grant currently covers three houses within the unincorporated areas for Merced and in partnership with Mission Merced Incorporated.

**XI. CoC Committees Report Out – New Information**

**A. HMIS**

Christy McCammond – no report for HMIS committee at this time.

**B. CES**

Christy McCammond – CES Advisory Committee Report was submitted in September of 2023. The committee will be looking into the access model or access to services. The committee also submitted an alternate assessment to replace the VISPDAT that work group had some crossover and the VISPDAT will be going away. An assessment guide was also created that has questions by questions into the rationale about the assessment point and also can be used as training guide.

**C. Youth**

Holly Newlon - Youth committee met on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and discussed how its members could support the community resource fair taking place Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed the creation of a flyer to recruit youth voices and it was created thanks to Phil Schmauss, members of the Legacy Project of the Dr. Jennifer Jones Foundation and MCOE plan to attend this event. The committee is in need of a secretary and anyone that is interested can contact Lucia Tejada.

**D. Health**

Linda Dash - The committee's purpose is to promote a healthy and safe community and to educate those unhoused persons the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. Our goals are (1) Prevention/Education; (2) Resources (3) Links to Healthcare. The committee discussed the many ways to assist the unhoused with healthcare issues by providing up to date brochures listing contacts for healthcare, food, housing, showers, covid test kits and access to testing for communicable diseases.

**E. Faith**

Lee Greenawalt - The Faith committee is attempting to coordinate outreach and charity activities by various faith communities and faith-based organizations. The committee will meet again on May 15, 2024, at 10:00am at the United Methodist Church, on 899 Yosemite Parkway.

**F. Outreach**

Sargeez Teimoorshahi – Outreach Committee met on March 6, 2024, with 30 participants. We discussed outreach efforts and had Valley crisis present on their services. An ongoing conversation we have had is the implementation of a Safe Park program. We need the city's help and COC in this process as it is a need in city of Merced and county wide.

**XII. CoC Committees with Vacant Chair/Vice Chairs – No Report Out**

**XIII. CoC General Membership Comments**

Carrie Schaller introduced herself. She is new to Ace Overcomers as a Community Health Worker who will be assisting members and families within our community to access resources and services.

**XIV. Adjournment**

This meeting was adjourned at 11:48am. The next CoC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 11:00am.





## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

**BOARD DATE:** April 4, 2024  
**TO:** Board of the Continuum of Care  
**FROM:** Collaborative Applicant/Administrative Entity  
**SUBJECT:** 2024 Point-In-Time Count Report Approval

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### RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1) Approve the 2024 Point-In-Time Count Report and authorize the Collaborative Applicant/Administrative Entity to submit this data to the Housing and Urban Development no later than April 30, 2024.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On Thursday, January 25, 2024, the Merced City and County Continuum of Care (CoC) conducted its Point-In-Time (PIT) count, as mandated by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is a count of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night. During the PIT count, 830 individuals experiencing homelessness were counted. Of those individuals counted, 428 individuals were unsheltered, residing in places not meant for human habitation, and 402 individuals were defined as sheltered in either transitional housing or emergency shelter, also referred to as sheltered. This count represents an increase of 5.9% or 46 individuals experiencing homelessness from the previously recorded 2023 PIT count. The 2023 PIT count reported 784 individuals experiencing homelessness. Of the 784 individuals, 390 were unsheltered and 394 sheltered.

Key highlights in the 2024 PIT Count Report:

- The number of sheltered adults and children in families increased by 2% from 394 in 2023 to 402 in 2024.
- The number of children experiencing homelessness has decreased by 27% from 77 in 2023 to 21 in 2024.

**STAFFING IMPACT:** None by this action.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None by this action.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Attachment A – PIT Count Report

**DEPARTMENT CONTACT:** John Ceccoli, Deputy Director (209) 385-3000 Ext. 5880  
[collabapp@countyofmerced.com](mailto:collabapp@countyofmerced.com)

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# BOARD AGENDA ITEM

**BOARD DATE:** April 4, 2024  
**TO:** Board of the Continuum of Care  
**FROM:** Collaborative Applicant/Administrative Entity  
**SUBJECT:** Encampment Resolution Funding Program, Round 3

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

- 1) Authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency, acting as the Collaborative Applicant/Administrative Entity for the Merced City and County Continuum of Care, to apply for and accept the Encampment Resolution Funding Program, Round 3 grant from California Interagency Council on Homelessness in the amount of \$3,535,383.60 to provide homeless services within the City of Atwater.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Since 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved the Merced County Human Services Agency (HSA) to act as the Collaborative Applicant/Administrative Entity (CA/AE) for the Merced City and County Continuum of Care (CoC). The CA/AE is the legal entity designated to apply for funding on behalf of the CoC. The CoC is designed to promote a communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.

The Encampment Resolution Funding Program (ERF) is a four (4)- year grant program which includes three (3) rounds of funding to provide grants to local jurisdictions and continuums of care to resolve the experience of unsheltered homelessness for people residing in encampments. Resolving these experiences of homelessness is critical to the safety and wellness of the individuals within the encampments, resolving encampment concerns, and transitioning individuals experiencing homelessness within encampments into safe and stable housing.

**STAFFING IMPACT:** None by this action.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None by this action.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Attachment A – City of Atwater Letter of Local Acknowledgement
- Attachment B – Caltrans, District 10 Letter of Support

**DEPARTMENT CONTACT:** John Ceccoli, Deputy Director (209) 385-3000 Ext. 5233,  
[collabapp@countyofmerced.com](mailto:collabapp@countyofmerced.com)

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** (continued from page 1):

ERF Round Three (ERF-3-R) is intended for the following eligible uses:

- Rapid Rehousing;
- Operating Subsidies for new and existing affordable housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers;
- Street Outreach;
- Services Coordination, which may include case management, access to workforce, education, and training programs, or other services needed to improve and promote housing stability;
- Systems Support as necessary to create regional partnerships and a homeless services and housing delivery systems;
- Delivery of Permanent Housing;
- Prevention and Shelter Diversion including financial assistance and problem-solving assistance;
- Interim Housing;
- Improvements to Existing Emergency Shelters; and
- Administrative Costs;

The CA/AE will work alongside the City of Atwater to find solutions for individuals living in encampments and transition them into safe and stable housing. The City of Atwater has provided the CA/AE a letter of acknowledgment in full support of this application by the CoC.

ERF-3-R funds must be fifty percent (50%) expended and one hundred percent (100%) obligated by June 30, 2025, and one hundred percent (100%) expended by June 30, 2027.



## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

**BOARD DATE:** April 4, 2024  
**TO:** Board of the Continuum of Care  
**FROM:** Collaborative Applicant/Administrative Entity  
**SUBJECT:** Membership Termination

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

1. Remove The Sweet Ethics Residential Association (SERA) from the Merced City and County Continuum of Care General Membership.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In accordance with Merced City and County Continuum of Care (Merced CoC) Governance Charter, section 4.6, "Termination of Membership for Cause Membership to the Merced CoC may be terminated upon a 2/3 vote of the CoC general membership during any scheduled meeting."

The Sweet Ethics Residential Association (SERA) submitted their resignation of membership via email to the Merced CoC on January 29, 2024.

**STAFFING IMPACT:** None by this action.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None by this action.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

**DEPARTMENT CONTACT:** John Ceccoli, Deputy Director (209) 385-3000 Ext. 5880, [collabapp@countyofmerced.com](mailto:collabapp@countyofmerced.com)

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