

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA**

**Month Day, Year | 11:00am-12:30pm | Video/Conference Call**

1.408.419.1715 Meeting ID: 257 382 585 or <https://bluejeans.com/257382585?src=calendarLink>

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**Call to Order/Roll Call**

**Norma Cardona**

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**Notice to Public**

**Collaborative Applicant**

At this time, any person may comment on any item not on the agenda. Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If action is required, it will be referred to the CoC board and placed on a future agenda. With the aim of allowing all interested parties an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. Please state your name for the record.

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**Public Comment**

**Norma Cardona**

To comment on an item on the agenda please wait until the item is read for consideration. Comments will be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per person.

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**Norma Cardona**

- a. Approval of Agenda
  - b. Approval of Minutes from December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020-Board Meeting via Conference Call
- 

**Community Needs**

**Lupe Rubalcava**

- Project RoomKey (5 Minutes)
- Los Banos Community

**John Ceccoli**

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**Chair Comments (5 Minutes)**

**Norma Cardona**

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**Action Items**

- Voting Exception-COVID

**Collaborative Applicant**

- Quorum-Allow General Membership to cast their vote if Quorum is not met.
- Nomination and Voting for COC Board Seats (General Membership vote) **Collaborative Applicant**
- Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair & Secretary (CoC Board Vote) **Norma Cardona**
- 2021 Calendar for CoC Meeting Dates **Collaborative Applicant**
- Letters of Support **Norma Cardona & John Ceccoli**
  - Education for Homeless Youth Grant
  - No Place Like Home

**New Business ( 30 minutes)**

- a. CA Informational Report Out **Collaborative Applicant**
- b. HMIS Lead Agency Report **Luke Brown**
- c. D Street Navigation Center Report **Luke Brown**
- d. New Direction **Sargeez Teimoorshahi**
- e. CES Committee Update for Grantee Expectations **John Ceccoli**
- f. Fiscal Agent Report **Candice Adam-Medefind**

**Grantee Reports (written reports provided if submitted)**

- a. Project Home Start & Project Hope Westside **Michael Thompson /BHRS**
- b. Sierra Saving Grace **Kristin Bizzack**
- c. Symple Equazions – Aim High **Kelly Turner**
- d. MCRM-Westside Bridge Housing **Tim Adam**
- e. Healthy House – UPHILL **Candace Adam Medefind**
- f. Turning Point – New Direction II **Sargeez Teimoorshahi**
- g. Housing Authority – Shelter Plus Program **Tracy Jackson**
- h. HMIS **Luke Brown**
- i. D Street Navigation Center **Luke Brown**

**Board questions/discussion regarding Monthly Grant Reports**

**Committee Reports (written reports provided if submitted)**

- a. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Committee **John Ceccoli**

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| b. Faith In Action Committee                               | <b>Monica Grasley</b>  |
| c. Health Committee  | <b>Jennifer Mockus</b> |
| d. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Committee | <b>Luke Brown</b>      |
| e. Planning and Development Committee                      | <b>Luke Brown</b>      |
| • Event Committee  |                        |
| f. Sustainability Committee                                | <b>Steve Roussos</b>   |
| g. Youth Committee   | <b>Norma Cardona</b>   |

**Other Business** (Time Permitting)

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**Adjournment**

Merced City and County CoC Board Conference Call, January 7, 2021

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 7, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Norma Cardona  
Steve Roussos  
Steve Hammond  
Jennifer Mockus

Matt Serratto  
Gary Brizzee  
Lloyd Pareira  
Dena Medeiros

Steve Tietjen  
Tim Adam

**Collaborative Applicant Staff in Attendance:**

Michelle Roe  
Tammy Arias

**Board General Membership in Attendance:**

Gloria Sandoval	Cesar Garcia	Liliana Sanchez
Lynn Downum-Hanzal	Monika Grasley	Feliza Gray
Cesar Velasquez	Lucas Brown	John Ceccoli
Ryan Miller	Joe Carroll	Kendra Matott
Renee Mounce	Sargeez Teimoorshahi	Nai Saechao
Kelly Turner	Donna Chinn	Mayra Ramirez

**Meeting Called to Order:** 11:00am

**Board Quorum:** Yes

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Consent Agenda Items**

- a. Approval of Agenda:
  - Steve Roussos motions, Steve Hammond Seconds. Carries unanimously.
- b. Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2020 Board Meeting via Conference Call:
  - Steve Roussos motions, Steve Hammond Seconds. Carries unanimously.

**Community Needs**

1. There was no Project Room Key report out.
2. John provided an update for the status of shelter for the homeless in Los Banos.

**Chair Comments**

- Tammy provided an update on the Street Count Training for the PIT count where training is scheduled for Jan 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-8pm at the Civic Center. Additional training is being scheduled via Zoom on January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> from 6-8.
- It was noted that there are CoC board members participating in the PIT count, Matt Serratto, Candice Adam Medefind, Norma Cardona, Gary Brizzee and Lloyd Pareira.
- It was noted that additional volunteers are needed as Merced solely had 19.
- The unsheltered Head Count is scheduled for 1/28/21 from 6-8am.

**Action Items:**

1. Voting Exception-COVID- Quorum-Allow General Membership was approved by the board.
2. The following nominations for CoC Board Seats were submitted:
  - Allen Brooks nominated by the committee
  - Margaret Simmons nominated by Gloria Sandoval
3. Nominations approved by the board:

- Norma Cardona, Chair
  - Steve Tietjen, Vice Chair
  - Steve Roussos, Secretary
4. 2021 Calendar for CoC Meeting Dates/Calendar provided.
  5. Letters of Support for Education for Homeless Youth Grant and No Place Like Home were approved by the board.

**New Business**

CA Informational Report

HMIS Lead Agency Report (Luke Brown)

Navigation Center Report (Luke Brown)

- December 17, 2020 Committed Report, Agenda and Minutes submitted

New Direction (Sargeez Teimoorshahi)

Fiscal Agent Report (Candice Adam-Medefind)

**Grantee Reports**

Project Home Start & Project Hope Westside (Michael Thompson)

- No report provided

Sierra Saving Grace (Kristin Bizzack)

- No report provided

Symple Equazions – Aim High (Kelly Turner)

- No report provided

MCRM – Westside Bridge Housing (Tim Adam)

- No report provided

Healthy House – UPHILL (Candace Adam Medefind)

- No report provided

Turning Point – New Direction II (Sargeez Teimoorshahi)

- New Direction provided their grantee report

Housing Authority – Shelter Plus Program (Tracy Jackson)

- No report provided

HMIS (Luke Brown)

- No report submitted

D Street Navigation Center (Luke Brown)

- MCCA D St. Navigation provided their grantee report.

### **Committee Reports**

Coordinated Entry System (CES) Committee (John Ceccoli)

- The December 2020 CES meeting agenda was provided

Faith in Action Committee (Monica Grasley)

- No report submitted.

Health Committee (Jennifer Mockus)

- No report submitted.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Committee (Like Brown)

- No report submitted

Planning and Development Committee – Event Committee (Luke Brown)

- The December 17, 2020 Committee report, meeting agenda & minutes were submitted.

Sustainability Committee (Steve Roussos)

- No report provided.

Youth Committee (Norma Cardona)

- No report provided

### **Other Business**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**February 4, 2021 | 11:00am-12:30pm | Video/Conference Call**  
1.408.419.1715 Meeting ID: 257 382 585 or <https://bluejeans.com/907121367>

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**Call to Order/Roll Call**

**Steve Tietjen**

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**Notice to Public**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Public Comment**

**Steve Tietjen**

To comment on an item on the agenda please wait until the item is read for consideration. Comments will be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per person.

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**Steve Tietjen**

- c. Approval of Agenda
- d. Approval of Minutes from January 7, 2021 CoC General Membership Meeting via Conference Call

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**Community Needs**

- Homeless Court Program
- Project RoomKey

**Judge Paul Lo  
Lupe Rubalcava**

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**Chair Comments**

**Steven Tietjen**

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**Action Items**

- CoC Board Officer Nominations

**Steve Tietjen**



- CA seeking Board approval to initiate and complete the HUD Consolidated Application process;

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**New Business ( 30 minutes)**

- g. CA Informational Report Out **Collaborative Applicant**
    - Announcement of the release of Grant Funding NOFA on 2/5/21;
  - h. HMIS Lead Agency Report **Luke Brown**
  - i. D Street Navigation Center Report **Luke Brown**
  - j. New Direction **Sargeez Teimoorshahi**
  - k. CES Committee Update for Grantee Expectations **John Ceccoli**
  - l. Fiscal Agent Report **Candice Adam-Medefind**
- 

**Grantee Reports (written reports provided if submitted)**

- j. Project Home Start & Project Hope Westside **Michael Thompson /BHRS**
- k. Sierra Saving Grace **Kristin Bizzack**
- l. Symple Equazions – Aim High **Kelly Turner**
- m. MCRM-Westside Bridge Housing **Tim Adam**
- n. Healthy House – UPHILL **Candace Adam Medefind**
- o. Turning Point – New Direction II **Sargeez Teimoorshahi**
- p. Housing Authority – Shelter Plus Program **Tracy Jackson**
- q. HMIS **Luke Brown**
- r. D Street Navigation Center **Luke Brown**

**Board questions/discussion regarding Monthly Grant Reports**

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**Committee Reports (written reports provided if submitted)**

- h. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Committee **John Ceccoli**
- i. Faith In Action Committee **Monica Grasley**
- j. Health Committee **Jennifer Mockus**
- k. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Committee **Luke Brown**
- l. Planning and Development Committee **Luke Brown**
  - Event Committee
- m. Sustainability Committee **Steve Roussos**
- n. Youth Committee **Norma Cardona**

**Other Business** (Time Permitting)

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**Adjournment**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 4, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Steve Roussos	Lloyd Pareira	Candice Adam Medefind
Steve Hammond	Margaret Simmons	
Jennifer Mockus	Steve Tietjen (Vice Chair)	Matt Serratto
Norma Cardona	present	Allen Brooks
Gary Brizzee-no response		

**Collaborative Applicant Staff in Attendance:**

John Ceccoli  
Anna Rubalcava

Tammy Arias

Lupe Rubalcava

**Meeting Called to Order:** 11:01am

**Board Quorum:** YES

**Public Comment**

No public comments

**Consent Agenda Items**

- c. Approval of Agenda:
  - Norma Cardona motions to approve, Steve Hammond seconds. Nay: none, abstention: none.
- d. Approval of Minutes from January 7, 2021 General Membership Meeting via Conference Call:
  - Norma Cardona motions, Steve Hammond Seconds. Nays: none, Abstention: none

**Project Room Key Updates (Lupe Rubalcava)**

Lupe R reported the following information:

- Current occupancy at the hotel-40 individuals in 34 rooms current- with a YTD of 378 individuals who have participated in PRK.
- There are no COVID/PUI currently active in the hotel and there were a ytd total of 68 who have sheltered.
- Total hotel placements are 142, 80 of which went to Bridge Housing, 30 to the D St Shelter and 32 to Permanent Housing.

Steve R commented on the positive results PRK has been to the community. Lupe R acknowledged the collaborative team effort between New Direction, Merced Rescue Mission staff, D Street Shelter Public Health and HSA staff.

Supervisor Pereira commented on the good work being performed. He commented on all the work that goes on work behind the scene and asked how we can work to publicize the great work the organizations are doing to serve the homeless in the community.

Scott- Coordinated Entry is an avenue to communicate with the community on the work that is being performed.

**Judge Paul Lo-Homeless Court Program**

- Merced County Homeless Court Program launched two years ago and is doing well. COVID put a one-year halt; the first court session is scheduled for April 2021
- Main idea is to address homeless population with legal hurdles; infractions and misdemeanor cases that carry no jail time. The individual needs to participate and complete the program in order to get the fines dismissed.
- The court will travel to the client. The Hoffmeiser Center agreed that the court can use their facility downtown which will be held once a month to conduct the hearings. It's been a collaborative program

## Merced City and County CoC Board Conference Call, DATE

between City of Merced-former mayor Mike Murphy, John Ceccoli w/CEO's office, MCOE and other CBOs. Judge Lo will be notifying the CoC on the date for those interested attending(observe).

- Pastor Hammond stated how excited he is and has an individual willing to volunteer. Judge Lo asked that the individual contact him so he can refer her. Volunteers-Attorney's looking to perform pro bono work can contact Judge Paul Lo at 209-725-4172.
- Gloria Sandoval ask how these individuals get notified of their court date? Judge Lo responded by stating that the program liaison will contact the sponsoring agency to assist in scheduling the court date once that individual completes the approved program requirements. The court hearing coordinator sets the hearing date with the court.
- Supervisor Pareira commented stating how grateful he is for the new program. He provided thanks Judge Lo on his service and efforts.
- Steve Roussos asked how the CoC can assist in sustaining the program? Judge Lo response was that they are always in need of funding. Monies are needed for the coordinator position. They are looking to secure funding for the coming year.
- John C stated funding is available to sustain the program thru September. They are ready to implement.
- Steve R mentioned if we can keep this on the priority list to get the program thru 2022.
- Candice A Medefind ask about language access? Judge Lo commented that they had not thought of this issue. The court will be providing interpreters and he will be thinking on this issue to present at his next meeting.

### **Action Items:**

- CoC Board Office Nominations Chair

John Ceccoli shared Board Chair responsibilities:

1. Chair the CoC meeting
2. A member of the regional planning group (Adam Gray coordinated) 1.5 hours' commitment. CA will assist with agenda review.

Steve T notated he is the least knowledgeable about homelessness; he stated that his place is full and will continue to serve as the Vice Chair. He did provide a quote by William Sherman, "if nominated I won't run, if elected, I won't serve."

Gloria Sandoval ask a question regarding elections being held in January. Dr. Tietjen commented that Norma Cardona did not accept the nomination and fulfill the commitment. He asked that nominations be held.

Norma commented that she is not able to commit to the position. She further mentioned that on her how, she started a non-profit, "Greatness Project", which will focus on providing services to at risk youth in the community.

Nomination were open:

Steve R nominated Steve Hammond.

Steve Hammond stated that he cannot accept due to his commitment of his ministry. His church is focusing on a worldwide outreach. Physically and time wise cannot make the commitment. He respectfully declined.

Supervisor Pareira nominated Mayor Serratto.

Mayor Serratto commented that his plate is full but is willing to step up. He did speak to the Cinergy between the City, Regional meeting and CoC.

John Ceccoli did mentioning tabling the nominations and scheduling a General Membership in March due to interests from the community in becoming members. He did mention Dr. Tietjen would continue to chair.

Steve R mentioned that it would be a strength to have Mayor Serratto in the position with his knowledge to addressing the community issues. **He agreed to second the motion.** Dr. Tietjen will support the mayor is facilitating the meeting.

**Nays: none**

**Abstentions: none; motion passed;**

- **CA seeking Board Approval to initiate and complete the HUD consolidated application process**
  1. Tammy Arias commented HUD released information on the consolidated renewals grants which HUD will be renewing all grants (granted in 2019) for 2020. We are starting the consolidated application for 2021.
  2. 12/28/20 HUD authorized all monies to be released for renewal grants. We received the notice to be eligible to register the CoC in order to be eligible for the consolidated. We received notice to register. We will do the renewal grants and the move into the 2021 competition NOFA. It will be release when received. This will be the opportunity for the CoC board can make funding choices. Add new projects. There are no choices in the 2020 grants.

**Motion to move the application process;**

**Steven Hammond so moved**

**Jennifer Mockus 2nd**

**Nays: none**

**Abstentions-none**

### **New Business**

CA Informational Report (John Ceccoli)

- Notice of Funding availability will be released 2/5/21 @5:00pm. It will highlight five available funding sources.
- We received board approval to return CESH II funding which has a longer spend down and use ESG-CV round 1. The total dollar amounts listed in the NOFA remains the same.
- D Tietjen commented on
- Norma motioned to have a GM meeting in March. John clarified that we did not need a motion, just approval to schedule a GM meeting vs a CoC Board Meeting. Dr. Tietjen, acting chair provided his approval.

HMIS Lead Agency Report (Luke Brown)

## Merced City and County CoC Board Conference Call, DATE

- D Street shelter has been at max capacity (30). Rapid testing being performed and helping in getting individual placed from encampments. Public health provided resources.
- Quotes from HMIS vendors, were provided to the board \$42,000 annual costs for year 1 implementation to/from; \$25000 are the current vendor costs with no cost to the community. They are looking at an increase \$17000 costs.
- Scott Rich consultant (20 yrs. w/HMIS); email address [hmissupport@gmail.com](mailto:hmissupport@gmail.com).
- Norma commented that eccovia had added costs; contracts were included in the packets.
- Steve R commented that we are making a significant commitment in changing vendors.
- The majority of the communities in Ca are using bitfocus which is stable. The clarify & bitfocus are focusing on CE. We need a stable investment. 5-10-year commitment.
- Jennifer M asked DHS is CalAim enhanced case management MC 1%. Does this project allow assist CBO in setting up to get reimbursed for the case management?
- No action at this time. Those with question can contact Luke or Scott.
- **Add as an action item to the CoC 3/4/21 Agenda.**

Mayor Serratto-Chair presiding

New Direction (Sargeez Teimoorshahi)

- ND is working with PRK, Navigation Center and Sgt Dabney. Identifying individual needing assistance with placement. Mayor Serratto thanked ND and his team & professionalism is impressive.

CES Committee Update (John Ceccoli)

- John echoed the coordination with PRK, MRM, HSSA and providers.
- Navigation center will be opening within the next 30 days offering 66 beds.
- D St @capacity
- MRM thru DH added 7 new single family residents (Merced, Atwater, LB & Livingston). We are getting capacity in our sheltering impacting public spaces. We will have capacity for our unsheltered individuals. CES will need to coordinate RRH to house individuals permanently.
- ESG-CV priority is to get individuals out of emergency shelter to perm housing. We are getting back to where we are prior to COVID within the next 60 days. Improved data capabilities thru HMIS.
- Identify CES data manager.
- We are meeting our target, public space management, PRK. Vets, family transition aged youth. Continue to give us targets.
- Scott Rich commented being involved in the CE process.
- Mayor Serratto commented that we need to continue to work together.

Fiscal Agent Report (Candice Adam-Medefind)

- Nai-no updates
- Candice stated she received \$15000 from John Ceccoli; ordering back packs. John C clarified funding was awarded thru Dignity Health and Common Spirits foundation.

### Grantee Reports

Project Home Start & Project Hope Westside (Michael Thompson)

- PHS \$81,153 51% budgeted funding
- PHW \$30961 29% budget

Sierra Saving Grace (Kristin Bizzack)

## Merced City and County CoC Board Conference Call, DATE

- SSG received was award funding by the City of Merced to assist with up to 6 months of back rent for those affected by COVID. Specifically, those who lost income. They can assist with mortgage (principal only). It can cover utility bills. No water/sewage
- PIT commented that we are not going to have a good outcome due to the rain and/or shelter. She asked for thoughts?
- Mayor Serratto commented that he felt they got a good count. He participated.
- Tammy commented that she is working with Phil on the count. The documentation is noted at being successful in looking at prior years based on increased; we have individual who have gone back out to recount. There was an increase. She believed the 1 of 44 CoC who did a full count authorized by HUD. It will help us in the long run.
- Numbers will be confirmed by next week.
- Norma is interested in the shelter count. Was there a shift in the unsheltered to sheltered. All data is being pulled.
- Mayor Serratto commented on the successes even though counts may have risen.

### Symple Equazions – Aim High (Kelly Turner)

- Norma shared that Symple Equazion have a new food truck;
- Jobs are being offer jobs employment to the youth at the Aim High house;
- Blaker @Castle Thur-Sun;

### Healthy House – UPHILL (Candace Adam Medefind)

- Article in Merced County times housed who have been homeless for over 20 years; PRK, Healthy House, HSSA.
- A food was donated “make someone happy”; assisting with food distribution for MC patient & families; 2<sup>nd</sup> year residents give prescriptions. Food boxes being offer to those who’ve been housed;

### Turning Point – New Direction II (Sargeez Teimoorshahi)

- No other updates

### Housing Authority – Shelter Plus Program (Tracy Jackson)

- No updates

### HMIS (Luke Brown)

- No other updates

### D Street Navigation Center (Luke Brown)

- No other updates

## **Committee Reports**

### Coordinated Entry System (CES) Committee (John Ceccoli)

- No other updates
- Gloria Sandoval asked a question on the warming center;
- Mayor Serratto asked if the Rescue Mission is the organization to contact? the located a church that would act a warming center. Tim Adam would be the point of contact; Gloria stated she would reach out to Tim.



## Merced City and County CoC Board Conference Call, DATE

### Faith in Action Committee (Monica Grasley)

- No updates

### Health Committee (Jennifer Mockus)

- No updates

### Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Committee (Like Brown)

- No updates

### Planning and Development Committee – Event Committee (Luke Brown)

- No updates
- Make sure to add individuals receiving service to the HMIS system.

### Sustainability Committee (Steve Roussos)

- No updates
- Norma Deadline coming up for the County to be the CA in April. Extension? CA to
- Starting nonprofit, sustainability of said nonprofit and what that looks like.
- Supervisor Pareira, noted that he is in communication with CEO and it will not be dropped. A process is being worked on.

### Youth Committee (Norma Cardona)

- Norma reported no longer the chair
- Ana Santos Vice-Chair, Aspiranet (Transition into Independence Program)
- Annissa Christine Hernandez Homeless Liaison MUHSD
- MCOE, MUHSD, BHRS, the cube assisted w/youth count which will be forwarded to urban initiative
- They obtained data on runaway number obtained (County Sheriff, City PD) to include the data in the report;

### **Other Business**

#### John Ceccoli addressed the emergency rental assistance Program

- \$16-million-dollar rental arrearages, target AMI 80%, preferably 50% AMI;
- Need to coordinate pots of money to address, targeting un met needs
- 16 Veterans with lifetime thru HUDVASH but we need to address units;
- SSG-it appears can assist with mortgage arrearages;

SSG & the Salvation army issued \$450,000; reach out to Stephanie to coordinate;

Norma asked for an update Project Home Key and No Place like home.

Dr Jones provided the following information:

NPLH-there are no official numbers; they are working w/City & the developer on the application; Dr. Jones will keep the group and the community updated. She is the lead with BHRS. The developer is Upholding who will be completing the application. They have other projects statewide. The Housing site

Merced City and County CoC Board Conference Call, DATE

will have onsite property management which is located at Loughborough and Meadows Ave and is comprised of 145-175 units. 150 as a middle with 45 dedicated to NPLH unit which will be permanent support housing run by BHRS. The developed partnered with Livingston community health and there will be a health clinic onsite.

They are working with Housing Authority to secure vouchers.

Mayor Serratto commented on having a park.

Steve Roussos ask a question on childcare. Dr. Jones stated that it was not written in the place but can be added in their discussion.

Candice A Medefind asked about the GLOM Program-Gods Love Outreach Ministries which is a new organization to the county. They provide services to the consumers who are conserved which provides 24 support. They provide transportation, food. Need oversight with legal services. Conservatorship is a legal matter and has to determine by the courts and then can be referred to GLOM. Is there coordination with the conservator's office working actively with families, assisting with moving thru the process. Dr. Jones mentioned that she can refer/connect to Sabrina in BHRS. Is there a coordinated effort with BHRS and CBOs? Is there movement to assist. Dr. Jones can ask if a presentation can be given at the CoC.

Norma asked about project Home Key-John Ceccoli will send out an email to the CoC board.

Norma asked if we can identify what populations and sub groups we want to target next? We are doing Public Space Management, Veterans. Moving forward what populations we want to target. The topic will be added to the 3/4/21 Meeting agenda.

**Motion to adjourn given by Steve R and Norma 2<sup>nd</sup>. No one opposed.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:31pm**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA**

**March 4, 2021 | 11:00am-12:30pm | Video/Conference Call**

1.408.419.1715 Meeting ID: 257 382 585 or [https://bluejeans.com/907121367?src=join\\_info](https://bluejeans.com/907121367?src=join_info)

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**Call to Order**

**Matt Serratto**

**Roll Call**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Notice to Public**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Public Comment**

**Matt Serratto**

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- e. Approval of Agenda
  - f. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2021 CoC General Membership Meeting via Conference Call
- 

**Community Needs**

- Project RoomKey

**Lupe Rubalcava**

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**Chair Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

- Regional Planning Meeting Update
- 

**Action Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- General Membership Application Approval
  - Rob Lelard-Homeless Advancement Association of Merced
  - Jeff Negrete-Catholic Charities
  
- CoC Board Nominations
  
- CoC Board Prioritizations
  - Identifying Targeted Populations & Sub Groups
  
- Community Action Agency HMIS Vendor Transition
  - Transition Plan. Budget Review, Costs & Proposals

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**Board Information & Possible Action Items**

**Collaborative Applicant**

- a. CA Informational Report Out
  - NOFA Update
  
- b. Governance Charter Review
  - CoC Committee Discussion
  - Article 4-Membership Applications
  - 4.8 Voting
  - Only one representative from each organization may vote on behalf of that organization, based on written authorization from that organization.
  - Written Authorization Form to Vote on Behalf of CoC Organization or as Community-At-Large Representative
  - 4.10 Designated Member Representative(s)
  - The list will be updated annually at the first meeting of the calendar year.

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Committee Reports (written reports provided)

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| a. Faith in Action Committee                     | Monika Grasley  |
| b. Health Committee                              | Jennifer Mockus |
| c. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) | Luke Brown      |
| d. Planning and Development Committee            | Luke Brown      |

- e. Event Committee
- f. Sustainability Committee
- g. Youth Committee

Phil Schmauss  
Steve Roussos  
Ana Santos

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**Other Business**

**Matt Serratto**

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**Adjournment:**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING MINUTES March 4, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Steve Roussos  
Skip Hinman  
Steve Hammond  
Jennifer Mockus

Norma Cardona  
Candice Adam Medefind  
Gary Brizzee

Lloyd Pareira  
Steve Tietjen  
Matt Serratto

**Collaborative Applicant Staff in Attendance:**

Tammy Arias  
Lupe Rubalcava

John Palm  
Anna Rubalcava

**General Members in Attendance:**

21<sup>st</sup> Assembly District  
Alliance for Community Transformation VCC  
CA Central Valley Journey for Justice  
Central Valley Opportunity Fund  
Independent Living Center Assist. w/Disabilities  
Llifeline CDC  
Merced County Behavioral Health  
Merced Community Action Agency  
Merced County Public Health  
Turning Point Community Programs  
Merced County Rescue Mission  
Merced County Area on Aging

**Meeting Called to Order:**

**Board Quorum: YES**

**Public Comment**

Lee Greenwalt with CA Central Valley Journey for Justice announced their organization is having a Youth Forum on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 6:00pm which will be held via zoom. A video was made by youth experiencing homelessness. It will highlight what youth are going through.

**Consent Agenda Items**

- e. Approval of Agenda:
  - Steve Tietjen motioned to approve, Steve Hammond Seconds. Nay: 0  
Abstain: 0
- f. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2021

Norma Cardona asked if Margaret Simmons is an official board member. Margaret commented that she was not voted on. Norma clarified that she Margaret was going to going to discuss the member status with SSG. Norma recommended Margaret's name get redacted from the 2/4/21 minutes. Margaret confirms SSG approved her appointment to the CoC Board.

- Steve Hammond motions, Dr. Tietjen Seconds. Caries unanimously. Motion passed.

**Project Room Key Updates**

- Current census 24 individuals in 21 rooms;
- 394 total year to date served thru PRK;

- There is one individual positive for COVID who will receive clearance today; there is a total 79 ytd;
- Placements: 394 total with 146 placed (82 Bridge Housing, 32 D Street and 32 to Permanent Housing);
- One individual moving to perm housing today
- Six individual scheduled to be place in permanent housing within the next week; two pending test results;
- A total of 16 individuals remain housed at the hotel whom agreed to placement at the Navigation Center
- Starting 3/15/21, efforts are being effort to coordinate the Intake process with the Navigation Center; No one denied placement at the Navigation Center.
- Candice Adam Medefind asked a question regarding total placement (146) and if it included people place to the D Street shelter or the transition housing (32 in permanent supportive housing)? Lupe R confirmed the answer to be, “yes”.
- Norma Cardona asked what it is looking like post navigation center? She further asked for clarification if we are in alignment to transition people to the Navigation Center to permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing? Lupe responded by stating that case managers working with their occupant will continue to provide services with the goal of finding and placing them permanent housing.
- Mayor Serratto as Lupe R if he could share lessons learned over the last year, critics, thoughts, comment, things we could have been done better.
- Lupe responded stating the lesson learned is there are people need help and the bring a coalition together to afford, or bring a workforce to assist these individuals the help they get off the streets was huge. He did state that there are things we can do better and we are working on doing so. The New Housing Branch at HSSA, the Navigation Center and Merced Rescue Mission. Everyone is working together to solve the problem and/or issues. There is good working going on and PRK is just the tip of the ice berg. He mentioned there is a lot happening in the near future which is make things better.
- Chair Serratto asked Lupe R what more was needed from the agencies on the call, cooperation, mobilizing the nonprofits agencies. Lupe R mentioned he CoC, CES committee and keeping the lines of communication open. He further mentioned efforts on working together. Relationship have been built with the community.

## Chair Comments

### Regional Planning Meeting

- City, County and State representation through Adam Gray’s office providing regional perspectives;
- Issues addressed were Encampment and Public Space management. How this will change, evolve post Navigation Center and slowing moving out of COVID?
- Opening of the Navigation mid-March with transition from room key to the Navigation and what that looks like.
- Housing Consortium-creating a Regional Housing Consortium with two benefits
  - Emphasizing regional approach and cooperation
  - County wide, it helps the smaller agencies become entitled and which enable them to apply for funding more efficient and faster with better access to funding.

### MCAG

- Regional planning funding which was directed to MCAG;



- The board had the option to allocate funding specifically to individual jurisdictions or to keep it in a Regional fund. There are regional planning dollars, \$700,000 and the decision was to maintain the money regionally which complements to regional housing consortium approach.

#### City of Merced Update

- In take with Caltrans & schedule to meet in the upcoming week, hopefully to address better management of the encampments
- Discussion will be held with the Merced City Council in April and May on housing in general, housing affordability, on homelessness and public space management with potential next steps.

Board Member Pareira mentioned there was discussion on MCAG to work toward regional planning with the monies. Direction was given to the cities to go back to staff to make sure this is what they wanted before they formalized the money.

#### **Action Items:**

1. CoC General Memberships for Jeff Negrete with Catholic Charities and Rob LeBard. Mayor Serratto mentioned having conversations with both, Jeff being involved with Catholic Charities and Rob being very active and enthusiastic. He mentioned knowing them personally and would be welcome additions.

Tammy mentioned this was a General Membership vote.

**A motion was made by Steve Hammond to approve the CoC General Membership applications; Dr. Yvonna Brown second the motion with no opposition. Motion passed.**

#### **Board Nominations**

There are a total of 19 board positions. 13 was the number agreed on to and currently there are 9 members.

A question was asked of Tammy if there were any interests.

Margaret Simmons asked to nominate Mike Belluommi for the CoC Board.

Steve Tietjen seconded the nomination.

Mayor Serratto asked if an organization had to be represented and Margaret confirmed that Mr. Belluommi is a Sierra Saving Grace Board member.

Tammy confirmed both Mike can be a board member but had to be listed as a member at large since SSG is already be represented by Margaret. He would vote as a member at large.

It was confirmed there are no current members at large on the CoC Board.

Board member Pareira shared concern with conflicted vs non-conflicted board members. Issues could arise when the organization has to recuse themselves which could lead in to not having a quorum. He further mentioned concerns with having two individual on the board from the representing the same organization.

Candace Adam Medefind did agree with Board member Pareira as she at time has had to recuse herself.

Norma did ask for clarification asking Margaret if she had interest in remaining a board member. Margaret did answer stating that she did want to be a board member. She further mentioned that she would step down to allow Mike Belluommi the opportunity to serve on the board due to his background.

Candace did ask Mike B if he did have interest in serving as a CoC Board member. Mike responded by stating that he would be interested to serve the CoC. He further mentioned not being familiar but would doing lots of listening.

Mayor Serratto asked if there were any other nominations? It was confirmed that Margaret is a board member.

It was agreed to take this action item providing board and general member allowing opportunity to review the Charter. Candace if the board could be sent the board charter rules. She mentioned submitting names for nominations. She did ask if efforts were made to contact the individuals.

Board member Pareira confirmed being Del Rey shelter and Allen Brooks. He did reach out and both were interested in serving. Allen was nominated at the last meeting. He did ask Candace forward him any names. He went on to state with Tim Adam resigning and David Carr stepping up for the Rescue Mission.

Yvonna asked Tammy to clarify Tim's position on the board. Tammy clarified Tim was nominated to the board as a former homeless. He did not hold the position thru Rescue Mission. We have not received any letter of resignation but will reach out to him. David Carr can be nominated to represent the Rescue Mission. The board as a requirement of HUD needs to have a board who was previously homeless.

Board Member Pareira agreed with Mayor Serratto is tabling the item to allow time to review the Charter as to review the process for board members. He further mentioned people had to part of the General membership for a number of meeting and then nominated. Tammy clarified that you can nominated anyone during open nomination/voting which happens one a year. That meeting has already taken place in January.

Matt asked to email the CA or himself with nominations. He asked for a nomination committee or he can chair the committee.

Yvonna Brown did ask for clarification if within the bylaws or charter there is guidance governing a nomination committee?

Tammy confirmed there is no governing bylaws for a nomination committee. There is nothing saying a committee has to be information.

Tammy read the Election Process from the Governance Charter which is on page 6 of the Charter.

Dr. Yvonna Brown asked to follow up with Tim to see if he wants to continue to participate on his standing with the board.

Norma Cardona stating that she will be submitting her letter of resignation to the CoC board due to job responsibilities require her full attention, she further mentioned passion projects she is working on requiring more of her time. She is stepping back as a CoC board member. She thanked current, past and present the board members. She further shared serving on the CoC board since 2013. She mentioned the great things the board has done, setting foundation and infrastructure, adopting the housing first model, reached close to zero in Veteran homelessness, set up CES access point, set up transitional housing for women 18-24 who are homeless, HMIS, all CoC committees. She is proud of all the work that's been

done. A letter of resignation will be sent to the CA this day. She added that she would be making recommendations on who could serve in her position from education or represent education.

Matt thanked her for her service.

Board member Pareira motion to table till the April CoC meeting and Norma Cardona second. No one opposed.

Tammy asked for clarification to hold a General Membership meeting in April 2021.,

### **CoC Board Prioritizations (Norma Cardona)**

#### **➤ Identifying Targeted Populations & Sub Groups**

Norma mentioned the boards focus to assist those needing shelter focused on specific populations (Veterans, small groups) continue to house as past practice.

Matt suggested to the agenda topic for two months due to the opening of the Navigation Center mid-March and the appointment of new board member's composition. Decision should be made with the new board.

Norma mentioned this would allow the new board member to review the 10-year plan which is used to target the said populations to house. Matt stated that we need to focus our efforts where impactful due to limited resources. (Youth, Veterans, mental health issues, seniors, transitional age youth, substance abuse issues)

Matt mentioning having discussions with John Ceccoli due to the increase in shelter space, focusing on move individuals through from the Navigation Center and D Street shelter to permanent housing.

Candace mentioned motivation for PRK focus was elderly/disabled, 65 and over most at risk mental/physical issues.

A motion was made by Candace to table to discuss till the next board meeting and Norma seconded. There was no opposition.

Mayor Serratto clarified the item could table till May 2021. Candace amended her motion to table till May 2021 and Margaret Simmons seconded. There was no opposition.

### **HMIS Vendor (Luke Brown)**

Luke mentioned the HMIS the spreadsheet (timeline report and costs) was provided last meeting. He mentioned being at a point as a community where a decision needs to be made to move forward or not. Public meetings have been held allows for questions to be asked. We need to make the commitment and start implementation of the new system or remain with the current system. A motion asking the board to give consent to move forward and start implementing.

Mayor Serratto asked for the benefits of the new system.

Luke mentioned the following:

- Easier customizable reports (less complications entering data and building of reports)
- CES is set up in HMIS (HUD request)-build the CES into the new system to meet HUD; coordinate service more effectively.

- Referrals & tracking
- Community Needs
- 5-year contract
- There will be no current investment into the current system.

Total cost is \$253,000 overall for the 5-year contract with an average annual cost of \$42000. Currently, we pay \$25000. Vendor donated 35 license (\$600 each). They are saving us \$5500.

Steve Tietjen asked on a termination clause if there is a loss in funding. Luke would review the contract. HMIS has assisted agencies in communicating thru COVID.

Tammy mentioned HUD provides the federal funding for HMIS system but not for the staffing. We could get out of the contract if HUD stopped funding as the vendor's contract with HUD contract process.

**Dr. Tietjen motioned to support the action and Board member Pareira seconds; no abstentions. Motioned passed.**

## **Board Information & Possible New Action Items**

### CA Informational Report

- NOFA, released 2/5/21, this was the multi-funded NOFA released to the general public; the total was \$4,225,920 which consisted of CESH, HHAP I, II, ESG CV I & II. NOFA Workshop held on 2/11/21;
- Board priorities given included the following: renewal projects sun setting HEAP & CESH I funding and community needs non congregate shelters in Merced and Los Banos, operational costs at D Street to remain a Navigation center shelter, public space management and PRK. An extension was give till 3/3/21. The NOFA closed 3/3/21 with scoring to start 3/4/21. Applicants will be notified of their approval/denial by 3/17/21 with contract/projects to follow within 30 days.
- We've had multiple requests and clarification questions on the charter on how it is written, board member vs General membership voting regarding Governance Charter Article 4, Membership Applications, 4.8 Voting, one represented can vote, written authorization to vote on behalf and designed represented.
- CA proposing to review clarification of sections in the chart, bring it back to the board, set up a charter committee to review the changes.
- Norma mentioned if individuals participated that those individual can be members if the serve in the committees. Tammy confirmed it was in the prior written charter.

## **Committee Reports**

### Coordinated Entry System (CES) Committee (John Ceccoli)

- No comments

### Faith in Action Committee (Monica Grasley)

- No report

### Health Committee (Jennifer Mockus)

- No response

### Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Committee (Like Brown)

- No other reported changes

#### Planning and Development Committee – Event Committee (Luke Brown)

- Access Points clearly defining this for the community, sub population with targeting individuals. Clearly define and agreement limits the points of access which makes it easier to track. Making use referrals are clear. Discussion were to limit access points allowing other agencies to assist. Building a community plan using resources wisely.
- Access Points? New Direction being the HUB with referrals being send from them. Serving the county as a whole. Who would be that HUB in Los Banos. Marketing was addressed. Need to clearly define roles.\
- Matt asked Luke if he would assist in presenting to the city counsel
- Limiting access points is making it possible to get into the system, better organize. It would expand services. Healthy house has been the access point for elderly & homeless; CCR chair the call monthly.
- Luke shared can we go beyond and identify vulnerability beyond the VSPDAT. How do we expand the survey addressing and identify the most vulnerable? Looking at building an assessment tool in the new system.
- **Luke mentioned leveraging the P & D committee to further have discussion which is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month @9:00am; CA can send out the link.**

#### Event Committee (Phil S)

No report

#### Sustainability Committee (Steve Roussos)

- No report

#### Youth Committee (Norma Cardona)

- Ana Santos, is a Program Manager for the Transition into Independence with Aspiranet is a new co-chair, Nesa Christian Hernandez, homeless liaison with MUHSD, a secondary co-chair, Mireya Hurtado w/MUHSD, Joe Carroll, Treasure.
- Youth committee awarded \$15000 to the greatness project; excited to see it turn into a nonprofit.

#### CoC General Membership Comments

- No comments
- Norma was thanked for her service

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:19pm**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA**

**April 1, 2021 | 11:00am-12:30pm | Blue Jeans/Conference Call**  
1.408.419.1715 Meeting ID: 385 305 208; <https://bluejeans.com/385305208>

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**Call to Order**

**Matt Serratto**

**Roll Call**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Notice to Public**

**Collaborative Applicant**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting will be conducted by Teleconference and there will be no in-person public access. All votes for this meeting will be taken via roll call.

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**Public Comment**

**Matt Serratto**

At this time, any person may comment on any item not on the agenda. Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If action is required, it will be referred to the CoC board and placed on a future agenda. With the aim of allowing all interested parties an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. To comment on an item on the agenda please wait until the item is read for consideration. Please state your name for the record.

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- g. Approval of Agenda
- h. Approval of Minutes from March 4, 2021 CoC Board Meeting via Blue Jeans

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**Community Projects**

- Project RoomKey
- Merced Navigation Center

**Lupe Rubalcava  
Lupe Rubalcava**

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**Chair Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

- Regional Planning Meeting
- City of Merced Update

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**Action Items****Matt Serratto**

- CoC Board Election of Nominees
- CoC Board Prioritizations
  - Identifying Targeted Populations & Sub Groups
- Transition of the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Grant and Committee oversight to the Merced County Community Action Agency(MCCAA)

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**Board Information & Possible New Action Items****Collaborative Applicant**

- c. CA Informational Report Out
- d. Governance Charter Review

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**Committee Reports****Committee Chair**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| h. Coordinated Entry System Committee            | John Palm       |
| i. Faith in Action Committee                     | Monika Grasley  |
| j. Health Committee                              | Jennifer Mockus |
| k. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) | Luke Brown      |
| l. Planning and Development Committee            | Luke Brown      |
| m. Event Committee                               | Phil Schmauss   |
| n. Sustainability Committee                      | Steve Roussos   |
| o. Youth Committee                               | Ana Santos      |

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**CoC General Membership Comments****Matt Serratto**

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**Adjournment:**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**May 6, 2021 | 11:00am-12:30pm | Blue Jeans/Conference Call**

1.408.419.1715 Meeting ID: 907 121 367; <https://bluejeans.com/385305208>

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**Call to Order**

**Matt Serratto**

**Roll Call**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Notice to Public**

**Collaborative Applicant**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting will be conducted by Teleconference and there will be no in-person public access. All votes for this meeting will be taken via roll call.

---

**Public Comment**

**Matt Serratto**

At this time, any person may comment on any item not on the agenda. Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If action is required, it will be referred to the CoC board and placed on a future agenda. With the aim of allowing all interested parties an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. To comment on an item on the agenda please wait until the item is read for consideration. Please state your name for the record.

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- i. Approval of Agenda
  - j. Approval of Minutes from April 1st, 2021 CoC Board Meeting via Blue Jeans
- 

**Community Projects Update**

- Operation Safe Harbor
- Merced Navigation Center

**Maribel Baron  
John Palm**

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**Chair Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

- Regional Planning Meeting



- City of Merced Update

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**Action Items****Matt Serratto**

- Continuum of Care Strategic Planning
- Acceptance of HSA as the CA

John Ceccoli  
John Ceccoli

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**Board Information & Possible New Action Items****Collaborative Applicant**

- e. Housing Choice Voucher Request
- f. Prioritization Update
- g. 2021 Point-in-Time Count Report
- h. NOFA Results
- i. Homes 4 the Homeless- Tiny Villages
- j. Governance Charter Recommendation

Matt Serratto  
Maribel Barron  
John Ceccoli  
John Ceccoli  
Steve Roussos  
John Ceccoli

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**Reports****Collaborative Applicant**

- a. CA Informational Report Out
- b. HMIS Informational Report Out
- c. Grantee and Committee Reports

Maribel Barron  
Luke Brown  
Committee Chair

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**CoC General Membership Comments****Matt Serratto**

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**Adjournment:**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Steve Roussos	Allen Brooks	Steve Tietjen
Jennifer Mockus	Gary Brizee	Matt Serratto
Candice Adam Medefind		

**Collaborative Applicant Staff in Attendance:**

John Palm	Iris Gunther-Battles
John Ceccoli	Maribel Baron

**General Members in Attendance:**

21<sup>st</sup> Assembly District  
CA Central Valley Journey for Justice  
Central California Alliance for Health  
Central Valley Opportunity Fund  
Healthy House  
Merced County Board of Supervisors  
Merced County District Attorney's Office  
Merced County Housing Authority  
Merced County Human Services Agency  
Merced County Rescue Mission  
Sierra Saving Grace  
Turning Point Community Programs  
UC Merced  
Homeless Advancement Association of Merced  
Homes for the Homeless  
Social Security Administration  
Symple Equazion  
Community At Large Member- Dan Lowe  
Community At Large Member- Ella Luna-Garza

**Meeting Called to Order:** @11:03am

**Board Quorum:** Yes

**Notice to Public:** Read by Collaborative Applicant

**Public Comment:** Read by CoC Chair Mayor Serratto

No public comment

**Consent Agenda Items**

- g. Approval of Agenda
- h. Approval of Minutes from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

- Steve Tietjen motioned to approve, Allen Brooks Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 @11:40am motion approved.

### **Operation Safe Harbor** (Maribel Baron)

- YTD census through program 2 clients and 1 pet served:
  - 1 exited from program
  - 1 to exit today by 11am
  - Referrals are made to appropriate programs for any client who does not have a place to go after exit of program
  - Project's purpose is for those who are homeless and COVID -19 positive or under the investigation of exposure.
  - Referrals for the program must be made by a medical provider or public health
  - YTD referrals 6
    - 2 placed in programs
    - 4 did not qualify for program
- **John Ceccoli-** Provided update for Housing for the Harvest. Program is similar to Operation Safe Harbor where individuals are COVID -19 positive or under investigation are placed in a similar quarantine setting. Program is for those who work in the agricultural field and/or food processing plants. This project is being operated by the Merced County Community Action Agency and funded through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 pending any extension from state legislatures. There has been one inquiry to date and individual did not end up participating. Reach out directly to Community Action Agency directly to make referrals. They are also doing active outreach for this program as well.

### **Navigation Center** (John Palm)

- Officially opened its doors on 03/27/2021
- Occupancy was low to begin with however with reputation of it being a good resource in the community it's occupancy is trending up
- 66 individuals currently staying in the Center; current capacity is 70
- 105 individuals YTD placed in Navigation Center
- Center is doing some participant work with employability skill training to help improve access to income
- 2 individuals have been housed from Navigation Center
- Data Super Team is working on putting together some numbers for Navigation Center to show how effective it's been. Working with several community partners to ensure we have right tools in place to track all information to report out to show effectiveness.

**Steve Roussos** – Asked if we know what the indicators of success will be at this point.

**John P-** At this moment, focus is on what indicators the funding sources are requiring as there are different funding sources for this project. Currently the primary indicators are increase in income, number of individuals housed into permanent housing, and participation into different skills training are just a few to mention. We are also trying to measure how many participants we are serving as we have a target of how many we want to serve.

**John C-** Another indicator is connection to physical health. Central California Alliance is a major partner as we are trying to connect individuals who are participating in the Navigation Center with primary care physicians, a whole person care approach in connecting them to a better healthcare outcome. We work on getting them connected to healthcare while we work on getting them permanent housing.

**Rob L-** How are we doing about getting people who are homeless into the Navigation Center.

**John C-** We are doing really well. Director of Navigation Center indicated total participants right now is 64 and max capacity is 66 with COVID restrictions. Doing really well on conducting outreach and identifying people from the public spaces and entering them into the Navigation Center. Fifth week of center being open and already very close to capacity.

**Mayor Serratto-** What big issues are you seeing right now with getting people permanently housed, what would help, what do we need? Emergency shelter is being addressed and public space management issue has some good progress however big issue still seems to be permanent placement. What is the best way to proceed to try and get people back on their feet.

**Candice M-** We are contracted with the Navigation Center to try and secure permanent supportive housing and case management and it seems like it might be a good idea to try and meet every other week and have a coordinate facility response committee meeting. This can encompass all the groups that are contracted to work with the Rescue Mission and New Direction on housing these individuals. Meeting can be at the Navigation Center to discuss cases and even barriers we are running into and how we can help one another to get these individuals housed.

**John C-** Would like to point out that Sargeez in on the call and he would be the subject matter expert to talk on the outreach question Rob L had from earlier. In regards to Candice's question, all programs who work with individuals and families who are homeless over the last year have had to adjust how to recruit landlords. The housing is just not there which the result of that is that we have more individuals and families who are in motels for longer stays. In regards to the Navigation Center, those individuals are even more difficult to serve. What we have seen from success standpoint has been relationships such as landlord liaison, landlord engagement, negotiating with owners, relationships with property owners, and landlord incentives for housing our clients. Some of our community partners have had some recent success in permanent supportive housing and difficult clients. To regional planning and smart goals to end homelessness, some period meetings around engaging with landlords, getting those organizations around the table has been something we have long talked about, having a landlord recruitment strategy. Lastly, having case managers who can answer questions with the landlords on behalf of the clients and to make sure clients are adjusting appropriately to permanent housing.

**Mayor Serratto-** This is a big challenge, I hear and read stories after stories about property being damaged which makes landlords reluctant and their concerns are legitimate. This is a real challenge and we need to be able to address those in the right way.

**Liz Freitas-** In terms of the Navigation Center, are we going to be tracking length of stay for those that are staying at the Center, if they leave early why they leave early, and for those that are housed are doing something like a 90 day and 6 month follow up to see if they are still in housing. One reason for questions is if we are following up on these things, it seems like these are the issues that will stand out to make things different. If we see that after 30 days, they are out of housing, we can find out what were the issues around that so we can start making corrections. Also, the 2 individuals who were housed from the Navigation Center, where were they housed. These are issues I believe we need to take a look at so in the long run we are able to really evaluate the things we are doing.

**Candice M-** Agrees with Liz. The idea of a coordinated response committee would be meeting couple of weeks to talk about the individuals who have been housed by all partners. Every few weeks we need to go through and sit down and talk about what are the really challenging cases and what are barriers we are

running into. Share success stories such as Candice's with Housing Authority and Immigration and offer help in those areas to other partners.

**John P-** There is an effort that is being made, it's part of that Data Super Team mentioned early to gather the information of where an individual was housed and was it successful to begin making educated discussions regarding where resources should be directed. This is still in development and will take some time to figure out. One of the things we are working with is the HMIS system, working on changing to the new system and developing metrics for how to capture this data and report out on this information moving forward. Also, wants to emphasize that John C's comments regarding landlord engagement is huge for working with the homeless population. One of the biggest challenges we are also working with is just inventory, a lot of the landlords we have worked with in the past are telling us they have no available units. As the inventory decreases, the prices increase and it makes it harder for our population to secure permanent housing. To Candice's suggestion of staffing, we do meet weekly for the coordinated entry system committee where we discuss some case staffing. We have prioritized that meeting based off of the priorities set by the CoC board (aged, woman, veterans, youth, and underlying health conditions/mental health). One of the things not discussed and maybe this should be a topic for the CoC is prioritizing those at the Navigation Center or D street shelter. We do talk about them if they are one of those priority groups, we don't ignore anyone, we do allow any partners to bring up any cases that they are having trouble with.

**John C-** Regarding tracking exits from Navigation Center, one of the purposes of meeting is that we are tracking daily the census, the number of beds, exits for other reasons besides housing, safety issues, work, not returning to center, health issues and going to hospital, anything we believe will be relevant to our community as well as our funders. Also trying to identify patterns in exits to begin to address those gaps. All participants of the Navigation Center are connected to a case manager and tracking the entire stay at the Navigation center is part of the case management. At 5 weeks in, we are not at a place where we can start bringing a lot of information forward at this time however feels that within the first quarter should be able to bring back information and start discussing patterns to what we are learning at the Center.

**Ella Luna-Garza-** Are there applications pending for the other beds not occupied?

**Christy McCammond-** Yes, there are pending applications that would put the Center at full capacity. One more client and a pet entering today. Should be at full capacity by tomorrow 05/07/2021 or by weekend. Data Super Team is made up from many different organizations to create data with integrity and not just data with quantitative data but with qualitative data so we are not just giving you numbers but we can tell you the why about the data to create more targeted, more focused solutions. Hunch is that we'll need to move more into a permanent supportive housing as a lot of the individuals won't be able to live on their own. Case management to follow up with post placement will be very important. Building next to the Navigation Center that is being built will have 30 permanent supportive housing units and this will be key in helping with this population.

**Liz Freitas-** Would like to add that when discussing case management, would hope that money can be placed aside for case management training. Case management in working with the homeless is much more difficult than regular case management. Would urge the community and CoC to look at bringing in some appropriate training for case managers.

**Mayor Serratto-** One of the action items is strategic planning session which is an important issue on how we are going to come together on a lot of these topics and looking forward developing this conversation and a plan over the next few months.

**Steve Roussos-** Was very innovated that we have the male and female sections, does anyone know the number of women vs men?

**Christy M-** As of April 28, out of 79 participants, 50 were male and 29 were female

**John C-** These number are really reflective of the population percentages, fairly equal distribution at the Navigation Center as well as the population percentages from what we see

### **Chair Comments** (Matt Serratto)

#### Regional Planning Meeting

- No updates

#### City of Merced Update

- We've had a lot of discussion in our last two city council meetings in April (5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) where housing and homelessness took center stage at both meetings.
- At April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting we came together on a public space management plan, to reiterate our plan is to prioritize certain enforcement zones that are high impact downtown, the creeks, other places where they have limited to zero tolerance for a lot of activity in those areas. However once people come and settle in places that are less impacted, our priority is going to be not move people. In the past, encampments grow and they are cleared and some people receive services and some don't and the situation just repeats itself. Idea is now if there are encampments that the city and community are tolerate because they are relatively low impact, to do our best to leave them in place and serve them. Working on a delegated maintenance agreement with Caltrans for their property so we can better manage a lot of the maintenance issues having to do with trash and public health issues and then send Caltrans the bill. We are in the final stages of negotiating that. Serving these encampments in a lot of other ways as well too.
- Number of complaints to the elected officials that they receive have seemed to have dropped in the last few weeks or so from the public about the situations that have been impacted by homelessness. Everyone here is doing a really good job.
- Another issue discussed was affordable housing, will come back in the August meeting with a lot of options. Two types of affordable housing, one we talk about here in the CoC is for homeless and then the broader picture as well for the average person who struggles to make ends meet. 205 shelter beds across the county.
- Two big things that are left are the affordable housing piece and permanent placement. The city has Childs and B. We are working on this project that will bring 30 permanent supportive housing units. In addition, we recently gave funding to Sierra Saving Grace and Rescue Mission to acquire permanent supportive housing units. The County's No Place Like Home application, I believe that's 45 permanent supportive units as well.
- Another issue is strategic planning; how will we get everyone working together in the best possible way. How are we going to be filling gaps if there are any. Clearly define rolls so we all can truly maximize our efforts.

### **Action Items:**

- Acceptance of HSA as the CA - John C
  - Read through board action item
  - Looking for motion from the CoC board to approve the continuation of HSA as the Collaborative Applicant from July 1, 2021 to May 31, 2023

No questions/Discussion from board

Steve Roussos submitted motion approve HSA to continue as Collaborative Applicant, Steve Tietjen Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 @11:41am motion approved.

**Matt Serratto-** Thank you to County for stepping up in the CA role

- Continuum of Care Strategic Planning - John C
  - Read through board action item
  - Current 10 Year Plan to expire in May 2021
  - Several recommendations in the original 10 Yr plan were implanted
  - Some recommendations were difficult to initiate
  - Recently in last couple years the CA has been working on developing a plan more focused on outreach and engagement, emergency shelter, navigation center, affordable housing development with a lot of success
  - Responsiveness is now at times within hours
  - More shelters beds have been added throughout the county
  - CoC board has prioritized five subpopulation groups
  - Seeking guidance from the CoC board on moving forward with strategic plan to end homelessness. There are pieces in place and with boards approved prioritization we can begin tackling this challenge from multiple different angles including coordination with outreach, emergency shelter. Along with a real focus on making sure that the rapid rehousing providers are able to connect with the homeless and permanently house them.
  - Original 10 Yr plan had eight goals identified; some goals have been met and some are still ongoing which should be included in the new plan as well as include smart goals with targets for example what can we do in one year. some sort of living document we can renew quarterly with the CoC board and general membership.
  - Recommendation moving forward is to get direction of who will be engaged in this planning, who will help to formulate plan and identify components.

**Matt Serratto-** Propose that both Mayor Serratto and John C take the lead and begin working on this plan. Will engage everyone and come back to the August meeting to report out. Anyone who wants to participate is welcome to join the planning. Plan is to look at this county wide and come back with their assessment in the August meeting. Discussion to be help in August regarding assessments made and how homelessness can be improved.

**Steve Roussos-** Agrees with idea presented by Mayor Serratto. Believes systematic approach outlines does make sense

**John C-** Idea will be to bring back information only over next few months and a formalized plan in August for the CoC board and general membership to vote on for adoption.

Both John C and Mayor Serratto agree that a motion is not needed at this time as the recommendation is to work together and formulate a plan to bring back at a later time.

No questions/discussion from board

### **Board Information & Possible New Action Items**

- a. Housing Choice Voucher Request (Matt Serratto) Informational item only

Appreciate partnership with Housing Authority; request was presented to Housing Authority for more vouchers to be allocated to the CoC last month. 143 of the current 150 vouchers have been leased up and a request for 50 more has been made.

No questions/discussion from board

b. Prioritization Update (Maribel Baron) Informational item only

Last month the board approved the following prioritization groups. These groups were taken back to the CES committee meeting. Numbers pulled from HMIS were pulled to report out. As of April 27, 2021 there were a total of 571 homeless individuals. Of this total, the following is broken out:

- i. Youth up to age 24- 10 individuals
- ii. Women- 237 individuals
- iii. Veterans- 23 individuals
- iv. Underlying health conditions including mental health
- v. Aged- 334 total individuals
  - a. 50-61 years of age – 334 individuals
  - b. 62+ - 111 individuals

For underlying health issues including mental health, this one is a little more difficult to prioritize as the discussion right now is how to prioritize. As of now, almost all homeless individuals are stating yes to either underlying health issues and/or mental health issues. The discussion as the CES committee meetings is do we prioritize these with self-attested from client, if so the list might be too long to prioritize or some sort of verifiable condition such as receipt of disability benefits. There was also a suggestion to begin prioritizing this group within the groups listed above. Will bring this back to the CoC board once CES has established how to prioritize this subgroup.

**John C-** Intent is to bring back relevant information on these priority groups monthly to the CoC meeting

No questions/discussion from board

c. 2021 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count Report (John Ceccoli) Informational item only

PIT report was received this morning and was not included in meeting packet. Report will be sent out to the CoC board and general membership today. Once everyone has time to read information, we can bring this back to the meeting for discussion if needed. Some of the impacts of this report are better outreach and really reaching the population. Methodology was a little different as well since we were not really engaging due to COVID restrictions. At times we had to make some generous assumptions of who was where. Overall what we've seen people are also in more visible locations. There is a 31% increase in the homeless population in the overall numbers. The report is broken down by sheltered and unsheltered individuals.

**Steve Roussos-** Reminder to board that Merced is only of the few counties who took part in this and its quite an accomplishment that we were able to do this. Only 3 out of 44 CoCs statewide participated in the point in time count.

**Matt Serratto-** Will be interesting to see next year and how much of this now is COVID related and now we have the navigation center. See how this will impact next year.



**John C-** Reminder, if there are any questions regarding the report once it's sent out we can bring this topic back at another meeting.

d. NOFA Results (John Ceccoli) Informational item only

February 5, 2021 we released a "Super NOFA" and have learned quite a bit from this. We are bringing back the results of those awarded. We are in the process of setting up meetings with the recipients awarded funds. There was a board prioritization on existing funding so you'll see some of the funds went to support existing projects. Community Action Agency was awarded funds to support existing project to maintain a navigation center, case managers, and focus on maintain that support to our community. System support funds awarded will allow them to hire a full time data manager. Non-congregate shelter in Los Banos, it's been difficult to find a motel who can work with us. Meetings are being held to discuss non-congregate shelter in Los Banos. Turing Point who operates New Direction was awarded funding to maintain their outreach engagement along with rapid rehousing to assistance with rental deposit assistance. Rescue Mission was also an ongoing project who was awarded funds to support their Los Banos bridge home along with rapid rehousing funds and landlord engagement funds. Healthy House was awarded funds to assist those aged 50 year of age and above for rental assistance and flexible housing subsidies. We did receive more applications for funds however we thought it was important to be strategic to make sure we did fund programs that can maintain their current capacity. As not all funding was awarded, the likelihood of another NOFA coming out to be strategic and targeted now that we have prioritization levels. Gap analysis and data driven distributions of remaining funds to address some of the other needs. We are still negotiating contracts with recipients therefore some of these numbers may change based off those negotiations as well for people who applied and have not yet been awarded as they need to make adjustments to projects. Meeting packet included list of providers who were awarded with funding sources and amounts.

No questions/discussion from board

e. Homes 4 the Homeless- Tiny Villages (Steve Roussos) Informational item only

Presentation for Homes 4 the Homeless by Steve Schneider.

**Matt Serratto-** Idea presented does have immense promise and believes it should be followed up on. Would like to have a meeting and discuss this topic of micro home.

**Steve Roussos-** Will follow up and schedule a meeting with Mayor Serratto, John C, and anyone else who needs to be included and take the lead in arranging this meeting.

f. Governance Charter Recommendations (John Ceccoli) Informational item only

This item will be tabled to next meeting. Recommendations will be brought forward at next meeting

## **Reports**

### **CA Informational Report (Maribel Baron)**

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds provided to CVOC to provide financial assistance and housing stability services, in the form of rent, rental arrears, utility and home energy cost, and utility arrears related to housing due directly or indirectly to the COVID-19 outbreak to eligible households. Total ERA funding received is \$8,255,908. 90% to provide financial assistance to eligible families and 10% for program administration. We are also working with our providers to finalize funding contracts.

No questions/discussion from board

### **HMIS Informational Report Out**

No current report out

### **Grantee and Committee Report Outs**

All reports that were submitted were included in the meeting packet. No further report outs provided during meeting.

### **Possible New Action Items:**

None at this time

### **CoC General Membership Comments**

**Rob Lebard-** Wanted to thank the Mayor for providing places in town where the homeless are not being kicked out of. Does have a question, the lot behind New Direction, is there anything being done for the homeless there, what services?

**Matt Serratto-** On the refuse front, the City took about 3.6 tons of trash out April 6. The City has been in there a few times and the Mayor has seen churches in the area assisting.

**Sargeez T-** Is out there on a daily basis. This morning some individuals were referred to the Navigation Center and working on others. Sargeez received some trash bags from CalTrans to give the homeless in this area and is working with them to place the bags 15 feet from the encampment and Sargeez will contact CalTrans to pick up the bags. Sargeez and his team is working on trying to transition as many of them out of this encampment as possible.

**Mayor Serratto-** CalTrans wanted to clear the encampment and the Mayor, the City, and Sargeez stepped in to stop this.

**Stephanie Dietz-** RFQ is out for CDBG services to provide port-a-potties and sharp collections at these various sites. Love Merced is working on bringing showers to these sites on a weekly basis. To the Mayor's earlier point, we need to do a better job in coordinating these services so we have a real understanding of what services they are getting and meeting the needs of those gaps that are still existing. The Mayor did summarize the Council's direction; we are looking to minimize the impact of small encampments and help to get our encampments in some sense of order to provide enhanced and targeted services to our homeless individuals. Want to go from 36 to 4-6 encampments. This take the impact off our merchant corridors and allows us to do a better job as a team to provide coordinated services and really make an impact in our community. We've mobilized Dr. Asadi and administered over 30 Johnson and Johnson vaccines and looking to expand this with Dr. Asadi.

**Mayra (Social Security)-** Would like to suggest an At-A-Glance documentation for all the services we have discussed so she can share with her agency. Something that has services and contact information for possible referrals.

**John C-** We have a community resource brochure that we can update and send out. Will work with our team here to finalize and send out.

**Sargeez T-** Would like to highlight one of their successes, homeless court. This was a great success and an amazing thing to be part of.

**Mayor Serratto-** Thank you to Rob Lebard and his work with the Rescue Mission. Homeless court has two success stories. Two homeless individuals were served through homeless court and are now housed.

Steve Roussos motion to adjourn, Allen Brooks Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 @ 12:33pm. motion approved.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:33pm

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA**

**June 3, 2021 | 11:00am-12:30pm | Blue Jeans/Conference Call**  
1.408.419.1715 Meeting ID: 385 305 208; <https://bluejeans.com/385305208>

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**Call to Order**

**Matt Serratto**

**Roll Call**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Notice to Public**

**Collaborative Applicant**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting will be conducted by Teleconference and there will be no in-person public access. All votes for this meeting will be taken via roll call.

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**Public Comment**

**Matt Serratto**

At this time, any person may comment on any item not on the agenda. Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If action is required, it will be referred to the CoC board and placed on a future agenda. With the aim of allowing all interested parties an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. To comment on an item on the agenda please wait until the item is read for consideration. Please state your name for the record.

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- k. Approval of Agenda
- l. Approval of Minutes from May 6, 2021 CoC Board Meeting via Blue Jeans

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**Community Projects**

- Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Operation Safe Harbor
- Housing for the Harvest
- Merced Navigation Center

**John Ceccoli  
Maribel Baron  
Maribel Baron  
Jennifer Carr**

**Chair Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

- Regional Planning Update
  - City of Merced Update
- 

**Action Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- CoC General Membership Applications (Christy M)
    - Daniel Lowe
    - Ella Luna-Garza
- 

**Board Information & Possible New Action Items**

**Collaborative Applicant**

- Governance Charter Review
  - Committees
  
- July CoC Board Meeting

John Ceccoli

John Ceccoli

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**Reports**

**Collaborative Applicant**

- d. CA Informational Report Out
  - Prioritization Update
  - CoC Website
- e. HMIS Informational Report Out
- f. Grantee and Committee Reports

Maribel Baron

Luke Brown  
Committee Chair

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**CoC General Membership Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

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**Adjournment:**

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

### Board Members in Attendance:

Steve Roussos	Tim Adam	Lloyd Pareria
Candice Adam Medefind	Steve Tietjen	Matt Serratto

### Collaborative Applicant Staff in Attendance:

John Palm	Iris Gunther-Battles	Christy McCammond
John Ceccoli	Maribel Baron	

### General Members in Attendance:

Bethel Community Church  
Bitwise Industries  
CA Central Valley Journey for Justice  
Central California Alliance for Health  
City of Los Banos  
Dignity Health  
Healthy House  
Independent Living Center  
JMJ Maternity House  
Livingston Community Health  
Merced County Area Agency on Aging  
Merced County Board of Supervisors  
Merced County Community Action Agency  
Merced County District Attorney's Office  
Merced County Human Services Agency  
Merced County Rescue Mission  
Sierra Saving Grace  
Turning Point Community Programs  
UC Merced  
United Methodist Church of Merced  
WestCare  
Homes for the Homeless  
Social Security Administration  
Symple Equazion

**Meeting Called to Order:** @11:08am

**Board Quorum:** Yes

**Notice to Public:** Read by Collaborative Applicant

**Public Comment:** Read by CoC Chair Mayor Serratto

**Gloria Sandoval-** First comment, due to recent experience with some homeless staying at the Merced Inn and Suites and having called Mayor and John Ceccoli and almost called the Army. Would like to know how individuals are being identified for Project Room Key. She has some concerns that some

homeless people are paying for staying there, they are paying \$70 a day which is a challenge to meet this when they are homeless. Second comment, because these experiences happened on a weekend, is there a crisis line that is available. Has the CoC considered having some kind of a crisis line for afterhours emergencies. Gloria has called New Direction attempting to speak with Sargeez a couple times and he was not available and one time she was informed by someone that they were short staffed and could not have an outreach worker could go. At some time, there was a two and one program that she is not sure if it's still operational.

**Mayor Serratto-** summarizing both questions asked: 24-hour crisis line and status of project room key and the \$70 charge a night, correct.

**Gloria Sandoval-** Correct and would these individuals be able to get a refund. Interested in knowing where she would call for afterhours incidents as she does not want to have to contact the Mayor each time.

**Mayor Serratto-** In regards to the 24-hour crisis line, this is something worth exploring. John and myself are supposed to come back for the August meeting with some kind of analysis on what everyone is doing, finding ways to work better with one another and to fill gaps. This can be something discussed and it can be included and brought back. In regards to room key, can John C or Sarg speak to this however his understanding is end of March room key was closed out.

**John C-** Correct, project room key closed March 29. That hotel is not project room key they are their own entity and they do cater to the same clientele. There has been confusion with thinking this motel is project room key.

**Gloria Sandoval -** Would like to add that one of these homeless individuals has been at the motel for the last six months which would have been an overlap with her eligibility.

**John C-** Addressing project room key and the way to get into project room key was through our coordinated outreach efforts. Outreach teams were going into public spaces and identifying individuals who would be eligible and if these two individuals were paying on their own and in a motel, there were likely not identified during outreach and not prioritized for this project. Someone who is staying at the Merced Inn and Suites and that makes them eligible for project room key is not an accurate statement.

**Gloria Sandoval-** Would like to clarify, it's not because they are staying at the motel it's because I do know they were living on the streets.

**Mayor Serratto-** Are there other public comments and reminder that there is general membership comment at the end of the meeting.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

- i. Approval of Agenda
- j. Approval of Minutes from June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 - No Comments  
Steve Tietjen motioned to approve, Lloyd Pareira Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 @ 11:20am motion approved.

### **Emergency Rental Assistance Program** (John Ceccoli)

Emergency Rental Assistance Program was approved in December of last year and administered by US Department of Treasury and here locally in Merced County we are working with Central Valley

Opportunity Center to operate that program. It's for rental and utility arrears for individuals and families at 50% or less of the AMI and who have also been impacted by COVID and they sign an attestation in regards to that impact. Currently they have opened phase 2 of this application period. During phase one they received over 700 inquiries in regards to the program. There is also a state program that runs 51% - 88% of the AMI. Phase 2 is open and scheduled to close on 06/07. Discussion have been had with CVOC and they are likely to continue this application process as a rolling application. We are waiting for this announcement to be made public. This is a great resource. Phase 1 data which opened on March 15 and closed. The way it was set up, it was an open and closed period for inquiries. They wanted to be as fair as possible and inquiries could be made via phone line or online. There were 191 approval applications, 118 for rent, and 136 for utilities. Some of the challenges to this program are the reporting requirements to the US Department of Treasury. There have been some challenges getting documentations together. We are actively working with CVOC to see how we can help facilitate that with our CBO's. in light of this, there is a Merced County Emergency Rental Assistance Form, any of the CoC participants or organizations that are working with individuals that may at risk, may have rental arrears can be referred directly to CVOC by utilizing this form which was part of the meeting packet. The form has an email address of where the form can be sent regardless of what phase this application period is in. We do want to highlight the income table, the eligibility table at 50% is quite low and remind everyone to be mindful of this and to pre-screen applications as to not overload CVOC. Would also like to remind everyone of Emergency Assistance Rental program under the American Rescue Plan, still waiting on a lot of clarity from the Department of Treasury on what this is going to look like and when this will come. Clearly people are concerned with the eviction moratorium set to expire at the end of the month. We have talked to the sheriff department, in a typical year there are about 1200 evictions for several reasons. Last year they were closer to 300, we are anticipating an increase based on what we are hearing but what that increase is going to look like, we are unsure. We are fortunate that our Sheriff's department works really close with Sargeez and New Direction so probably about 90-90% when they are engaged are able to self-resolve. If there is a big influx, we'll work closely with Sargeez to try to manage this influx. We don't want to see people at risk become homeless. We want to make sure we can provide services and prevent large scale evictions. To date, through May 28<sup>th</sup>, CVOC was able to provide \$784,000 of rental and utility arrears, wide spectrum of families who owed over \$20,000 to families who owed \$60. State wide this program has been underutilized based off expectations going in, they are still trying to figure this out at the state level.

**Gloria S-** Is there an ending date?

**John C-** Emergency Assistance Rental Program 1, couple dates of note. Our ending date is November 30, 2021 for full expenditure. There is a provision from a spend down prospective that could extend this date by a few months. The program can pay up to 12 months of arrears rental and utility going back to March of 2020 and once arrears paid, it can pay up to 3 months of prospective rental assistance. Emergency Rental Assistance 2 program will extend those 15-month assistance to 18-months. We are still looking at this program and waiting to see what this is going to look like. Right now there is a local program with up to 50% AMI, then a state program for up to 88% AMI, we want to make sure the programs do not get confusing and continue to provide to those in need. For phase 1, those interviews were conducted in Winton at the CVOC office, for phase 2, those will be conducted in the city of Los Banos and here in Merced as well. A portion of this grant was capped at 15% which a lot of that was for workers, they have only so many outreach workers and staff. We have supplemented that with work experience through a partnership with workforce investment as well as assisting with as much as possible with our call center. CVOC does have language capabilities for Spanish, Hmong, Punjabi, and English.

### **Operation Safe Harbor** (Maribel Baron)

Project's purpose is for those who are homeless and COVID -19 positive or under the investigation of exposure. The project end date is September 30, 2021. Clients who are active in the program are placed at



the Merced Inn and Suites during their quarantine period. There is some confusion that this is still Project Room Key however this program is different and is Operation Safe Harbor. Referrals must come from a medical provider or Public Health. We have had a few instances where homeless clients have rapid tested positive and cannot secure a medical provider to refer them therefore we work with Public Health nurses for referral processes.

- YTD census through program 5 clients and 1 pet served:
  - Currently 1 active client in the program
  - YTD referrals 11
    - 5 placed in programs
    - 6 did not qualify for program

### **Housing for Harvest** (Maribel Baron)

Housing for the Harvest. Program is similar to Operation Safe Harbor where individuals are COVID -19 positive or under investigation are placed in a similar quarantine setting. Program is for those who work in the agricultural field and/or food processing plants. The client can be placed in a motel setting or choose to quarantine at home. This project is being operated by the Merced County Community Action Agency and funded through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 pending any extension from state legislatures. There has been two participants in the program to date. Merced County Community Action Agency is doing active outreach for this program in agricultural areas as well food field work. Reach out directly to Community Action Agency directly to make referrals, Luke Brown would be your contact person.

**Mayra** (social security) – Can you please send me the contact numbers for both of those programs for referrals.

**Maribel B-** Will send out that information to Mayra. For Operation Safe Harbor, Maribel Baron would be the contact person and for Housing for Harvest it would be Luke Brown and his team.

### **Navigation Center** (Christy McCammond)

Has prepared statistics which are provided to Mr. Brown on a weekly basis. For operation period of May 1 through May 26. In order to communicate about operations in a collaborative way, an agreement was made that the term census refers to any participant and all participants who walk through the doors of the navigation center. Bed days are those that are reserved for participants. A few important disclaimers, first a participant in terms of census who has been temporarily asked to leave will still appear in bed days' data as their bed is still available to them however they will not be counted in the day for census the day they were asked to be out of shelter as they did not enter the building that day. The reason is how this data is reviewed can really impact how we plan data and gaps in service. Bed days will not be counted for anyone who was terminated from the program. For May, the census has a low of 43 and a high of 63 and moving over to bed days, more stable piece of data, a low of 49 and a high of 65. Current COVID capacity is 66. Total cumulative bed days as of May 26 is 1,498. Moving on to gender profile, using same census definition as denominator, 69 participants who were male and 35 females. Navigation Center exits, this helps understand why people are leaving and some have exited the program. With same time period, we had 11 in self termination category, 3 who were banned, and 28 terminated. Banned is a gross violation of the rules with health and safety as an issue and they were asked to leave. Self-terminated are those that are housed or the participants decided to voluntarily leave the program. Terminated are people who have to many nights out who may return if certain criteria are met. The reason for termination is the person has missed too many nights and we want to make this bed available for someone who is ready to

be in program. For the 11 who are self-terminated, 2 are housed, 4 who moved to bridge housing (mini navigation centers), 3 who enter program for addiction diseases, 1 who moved to D street shelter, and 1 person left town.

**Gloria S-** What are options are given when people are terminated. This is hard to understand when this setting is sometimes their last resorts for sheltering and they are asked to leave. Do they go back to encampments? Another question, is there any question asked about where they come from. Continues to here that people are given one way tickets from other places like Fresno to Merced, do you know how we can gather this information.

**Christy M-** Appreciate the questions, on the termination options, we have such a great partner in Sargeez, when we find someone is struggling in the Navigation Center, we huddle with Sargeez and New Direction as the first access point and try to find another possibility and through the work of the service coordinators at the Navigation Center they try to work to keep the participant there. Options are given to the participants. Interaction with service coordinators and participants is very high and try to make sense of what is the reason for this exit. As far as where they came from, the partnership with New Direction and their intake process, this is part of that data they take in. Currently we don't have that data to share but it is being gathered. As far as one way tickets to Merced, have not heard of this and cannot talk to this, maybe someone else in the meeting can. Is not aware of any data like this.

**John C-** Regarding first question, currently talking to Navigation Center and there are missing services, we didn't anticipate for Navigation Center to be able to meet all the needs out there. When looking at census, it's great that it can meet as many individuals as it is. What we've seen over the last two months, this core group of people are getting stabilized and working on getting them housing. For the missing pieces, we are hoping to develop committees to begin doing gap analysis for those that the Navigation Center cannot provide those needs for maybe safety reasons. As this evolves, we are hoping to identify those pieces and bring it back and work on those resources and how we can collaborate on meeting those gaps. About where are they coming from, to access the Navigation Center, the individuals have to work with New Direction, they go into public spaces and ask about where they are coming from and process the intake. Whomever is saying it's a one way into Merced is more anecdotal and based on HMIS data is more like a myth. In HMIS this data is tracked, in 2018-2019, the number was about 70% and in 2020 this number has jumped of those individuals asked where they came from and well over 80% indicated somewhere in Merced County.

Let me introduce Christy McCammond, she is the newest Program Manager for the Collaborative Applicant Administrative Entity and is interested in data quality.

**Sargeez-** Just received 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report and they do track where the clients are coming from, which county the client becomes homeless in. Can send this report to the Collaborative Applicant.

### **Chair Comments** (Matt Serratto)

#### Regional Planning Meeting

- No updates

#### City of Merced Update

Progress has been made on the big four things, public space management, shelter housing with navigation center right in the middle and Luke can give an update later on D street shelter. Two next big steps are trying to organize and work together as best as possible and to decide what are the next big projects in the

next steps, we have the navigation center, we have the rescue mission project as well on Cone in process of being built. The City has their Childs and B apartments, the County has No Place Like Home application for 45 more units at Loughborough and Meadows. Hopefully those proceed and there is some success there and the big questions going forward are what is next in terms of a Home Key project, senior focused housing, tiny homes. All things we've discussed and I think in the next month or two really the time to as a community not just this board but the City, the County, everybody, getting together and supporting now what do we need and what is the next projects.

No questions/comments

### **Action Items:**

- CoC General Membership Applications – Christy M (read summaries of action items regarding CoC membership guidelines)
  - Daniel Lowe- Organization Representative- Present. Homes for the Homeless
  - Ella Luna-Garza- Organization Representative United Methodist Church and Journey for Justice. Present. Excited about the work the CoC is doing and is looking forward to working with the CoC.

**Candice A-** What are the organizations the applicants are from? Answered by the applicants

**Gloria S-** Just a technicality however Pastor Ella's application says board member at the top, is this an accident or intentional.

**Maribel B-** Pastor Garza is not currently a general membership and cannot be a board member without being on the general membership therefore her application should have been a general membership therefore we are accepting it as a general membership.

Steve Tietjen motioned to approve, Candice Adam-Medefind Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0  
@ 11:57am motion approved.

**Matt S-** Congratulations to you both and welcome. Appreciate your involvement and your passion.

### **Board Information & Possible New Action Items**

#### **g. Governance Charter Review (John C)**

Ongoing review of our charter, summarized § 578.7 Responsibilities of Continuum of Care for the CoC and the general membership to reminder to keep in mind our responsibilities. For committees to focus on meeting these responsibilities and to ensure we have written standards we are meeting federal regulations HUD has established. As a body, these are our responsibilities and we are meeting the majorities of these however we want to ensure we are meeting all of these. Thought process is to review our current committees, would recommend the Board and any general members who want to participate in reviewing and come back to provide recommendations to amend our governance charter as well as provide the general membership an opportunity to participate in these committees. Review the seven established committees and take this time to review if these committees make sense or are more committees needed. Does a work group need to be created to explore to explore this over the next month months and recommend coming back in the future?

**Matt S-** Does agree that we can come back in August and include this in the Regional Planning coming back in August.

**Gloria S-** In the past we've had a pretty positive event, homeless connect and have a question about point in time. Should those be part of a committee.

**Matt S-** They can be however the point in time has been its own thing and its worked, we shouldn't really change it as its working. Homeless connect can possibly be brought back obviously with COVID its limited this year but if its needed it can be brought back and under a subcommittee. To a broader point, it seems like we are at a different position both at the county level in terms of new developments and also the State and National level with dialogue and funding. Structuring those working groups to make sure they matching with the opportunities and challenges of the moment.

**John C-** If anyone is interested in participating in the regional planning discussion please reach out to the CA inbox or John directly.

**h. July CoC Board Meeting (John C)**

The July Board meeting is scheduled and is leading into a holiday week. We have reached out to the board officers on their thoughts of not having a meeting in July. Looking at the weeks, it would be leading into a holiday. If there is anything that comes up, we can have an electronic vote, our governance charter does allow for electronic vote as well as mandates we meet at least nine times. We are fairly covered in this area if we don't meet in July. The consensus when we reached out to the board was to cancel the July meeting. This is just an informational item, does not need a vote.

No objections/comments from board or general membership

**Reports**

**CA Informational Report Out (Maribel Baron)**

**Prioritization Update**

Prioritization groups have been approved by the board and numbers have been pulled out of HMIS to report out. There were a total of 526 homeless individuals. Of this total, the following is broken out:

- vi. Youth up to age 24- 9 individuals
- vii. Women- 214 individuals
- viii. Veterans- 19 individuals
- ix. Underlying health conditions including mental health- 25 individuals
- x. Aged- 301 total individuals
  - a. 50-61 years of age – 201 individuals
  - b. 62+ - 100 individuals

Updates will be brought back each CoC meeting. Numbers are discussed at the CES meeting and those individuals who are housed are removed from the list. The current list that was pulled from HMIS with an effective date of 01/01/2020 and anyone with a contact in HMIS is being pulled for this list. Discussion had over the underlying health conditions: These numbers are reflective of those individuals within the already prioritized groups who have indicated yes to both mental

health and underlying health conditions. At this time, almost everyone on the list has one or the other checked and we had to develop a method to make this is prioritization list a little more manageable. At this time, those that are being counted are those that have indicated yes to both questions in HMIS. With Clarity coming up, we are hoping it will be easier to capture this data and more ways of verifying this information as well. VI-SPDAT is the driving tool in HMIS to discuss the most vulnerable population.

### **CoC Website**

Currently the CoC website is down for anyone that is attempting to access the website. We discovered the website down about two weeks and have begun working to attempt to bring that website back up or at least recover the information on the website. At this time, we cannot post any information, agendas, or meetings to the website. For time being, if you are in need of information for the CA, please email our inbox and we will be glad to assist. We will let the board and general membership know as soon as more information is updated about the website.

**John C-** If anyone in a committee has experience in this area, if there is anyone out there that knows of anyone who can assist with website development, creation please let us know.

**Matt S-** The website doesn't have to be advanced, just basic information regarding our meetings, links and things we need to send out.

**Maribel B-** Last meeting it was requested we create some type of resource guide. This was created and sent out in the meeting packet. Also, wanted to share some information on Emergency Housing Vouchers. As part of the American Rescue Plan 302, HUD will be issuing Emergency Housing Vouchers. We have attended multiple webinars and meetings with the Housing Authority. Housing Authority is working on obtaining 85 of these vouchers and will be entering into an MOU with the CoC to obtain referrals through the CES for these vouchers.

No questions/discussion from board

#### b. HMIS (Luke Brown)

HIC report for the County has been submitted. MCCA was able to bring on a Coordinated Entry Specialist who will play a vital role in the community to provide quality data and to assist with coordinating our community services. What we are seeing with leading the CES committee is that there are a lot of people on the list who has had no contact with a provider and sometimes we don't know if they are working with anyone. We really want to get these lists tuned up to ensure we know who they are, who is working with them, and what is needed for these individuals. This person will play a vital role in this. At this time, we are in the process of getting the contracts with Clarity. This will really help us in the community to get this more tied in with HMIS and services in the community.

**Matt Serratto-** D street shelter, we have 30 of the 60 beds are currently occupied?

**Luke B-** Correct, we are scheduled to start opening up on the 14<sup>th</sup> and expand to full capacity in steps to get people accustomed to get adjusted with full capacity. Should be to full capacity within a few months. June 14<sup>th</sup> we will open up to 45 beds and then in phases. Currently we are full in available beds and the weather does play a role in this and we are consistently full.

No questions/discussion from board

i. Grantee and Committee Reports

**Maribel B-** A few reports were received after the packet was sent out to everyone, these will be sent to the committee in a separate email.

### CoC General Membership Comments

**Gloria S-** One concern I have is about health. I spoke with someone who works in an ER room here locally and they said that one homeless woman checks in six times a day. Is there any collaboration with the hospitals in regards to their emergency issues? Are there cooling centers that are available?

**Matt Serratto-** The ER rooms are a consistent long term issue.

**John C-** This is a really good question, we do liaison with the hospitals in regards to COVID and Operation Safe Harbor. We are there first point of contact for anyone homeless. I believe also BHRS and Adult services however they are represented here, they might have more information on communication with the hospital as well as respite care Rescue Mission.

**Michael T-** We do have a mobile triage team that can go out and assess someone. This is the 24-hour crisis stabilization team. If you call 209-381-6800 they are stationed there and can be contacted and will respond to anyone who might need crisis evaluation.

**Gloria S-** I believe I've heard that for people staying in the hospital there are social workers however don't think that it's a social worker for those who are just arriving to the ER. Social workers would work with facilities for extended stays when they leave.

**John C-** This is a great topic for a committee to tackle. There is definitely opportunity for us to improve in our ER departments. When COVID first started, this was one of our mandates, to ensure our ERs were not overwhelmed. There is an opportunity to serve the population through the hospital as an entry point and we've discussed we as the CoC can work with to impact this population. How can we partner with the Emergency Room, Law enforcement and business sectors to more effectively respond to individuals who are homeless. There has been efforts made in this area with Dignity and Sutter however there are always more we can do.

**Candice A-** A couple of years ago we had a very effective system. We worked it through the Coordinated Community Response Committee. The police would call us up or bring a homeless person to us and we would call the ambulance and meet them at the ER room. There was a good ER social worker and they would keep the person long enough until we can figure out what services can be offered and even get them enrolled into Medi-Cal and transitioned to a rehabilitation home if needed. We would get people who are trained on motivational interventions to go into the hospital and talk to the people to encourage them to stay and give us time to get them into placement. This is really an important system to get going.

**Maribel B-** Would like to add that with Operation Safe Harbor, the collaboration with both hospitals, Dignity and Sutter in Los Banos, is pretty good. I am constantly in contact with the social workers from both hospitals regarding homeless individuals. We get quite a bit of phone calls even for those that are not homeless to inquire about any other services that are available and resources before they discharge

someone. It appears they do a really good job in researching what a patient might be open to and available to them.

**David C-** Part of our coordination with Respite and the hospital before COVID was to get those motivational engagements to the patients, we just haven't been allowed too. Maybe we can begin to get back to this, it's a really good idea.

**Gloria S-** Cooling centers please

**John C-** Last year they were done by the City, do not know if we have any at this time,

**Matt S-** The City will open up when the temperature gets over a certain amount however with COVID this might limit it however after June 15<sup>th</sup> we might be able to start up on. City Hall is also being used as a vaccination clinic so this might affect this. To conclude, a lot of elderly are in the encampments, maybe to focus on this age group when we begin new projects.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:35pm

Steve Tietjen motioned to approve, Llyod Parreira Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 @12:35 pm motion approved.

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**August 5, 2021 | 11:00am-12:30pm | Blue Jeans/Conference Call**  
1.408.419.1715 Meeting ID: 385 305 208; <https://bluejeans.com/385305208>

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**Call to Order**

**Matt Serratto**

**Roll Call**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Notice to Public**

**Collaborative Applicant**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting will be conducted by Teleconference and there will be no in-person public access. All votes for this meeting will be taken via roll call.

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**Public Comment**

**Matt Serratto**

At this time, any person may comment on any item not on the agenda. Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If action is required, it will be referred to the CoC board and placed on a future agenda. With the aim of allowing all interested parties an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. To comment on an item on the agenda please wait until the item is read for consideration. Please state your name for the record.

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- m. Approval of Agenda
- n. Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2021 CoC Board Meeting via Blue Jeans

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**Community Projects**

- Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Operation Safe Harbor
- Housing for the Harvest
- Merced Navigation Center
- Emergency Housing Vouchers

**John Ceccoli  
John Palm  
Luke Brown  
Jennifer Carr  
John Palm**



**Chair Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

- Regional Planning Update
- City of Merced Update

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**Action Items**

**Matt Serratto**

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**Board Information & Possible New Action Items**

**Collaborative Applicant**

- CoC Grantee Contract Requirements Christy McCammond
- Regional Planning Christy McCammond
- Cost of Homelessness Data Project Christy McCammond

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**Reports**

**Collaborative Applicant**

- g. CA Informational Report Out
  - CoC Website John Palm
- h. HMIS Informational Report Out
  - Prioritization Update Luke Brown
- i. CoC Program Grant Agreements for HUD Christy McCammond
- j. Grantee and Committee Reports Committee Chair

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**CoC General Membership Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

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**Adjournment:**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES August 5, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Steve Roussos  
Steve Hammond

Jennifer Mockus  
Margaret Simmons

Lloyd Pareria  
Matt Serratto

**Collaborative Applicant Staff in Attendance:**

John Palm                      Iris Gunther-Battles      Christy McCammond  
John Ceccoli

**General Members in Attendance:**

Bethel Community Church  
CA Central Valley Journey for Justice  
Central California Alliance for Health  
Healthy House  
Homes for the Homeless  
Merced County Area Agency on Aging  
Merced County Board of Supervisors  
Merced County Behavioral Health and & Recovery  
Merced County Community Action Agency  
Merced County District Attorney's Office  
Merced County Human Services Agency  
Merced County Rescue Mission  
Sierra Saving Grace  
Turning Point Community Programs  
UC Merced

**Meeting Called to Order:** @11:00am

**Board Quorum:** Yes

**Notice to Public:** Read by CoC Chair Mayor Serratto

**Public Comment:** Read by CoC Chair Mayor Serratto

No Public Comment

**Consent Agenda Items**

- k. Approval of Agenda
- l. Approval of Minutes from June 2021 - No Comments  
Steve Hammond motioned to approve, Margaret Simmons Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0  
@11:11am motion approved.

### **Emergency Rental Assistance Program** (John Ceccoli)

Providing a brief update. We are partnered with CVOC who administer for us the program. Through July 28, 2021, they have assisted about 400 households and provide about \$1.5 million in rental and utility assistance. The program assists households with up to 50% of the area median income (AMI). This program has been prioritizing people who are under 30% of the area median income. Of the 400 households, 271 are under the 30% AMI. There are currently scheduled through August 27, 2021, about three weeks out on appointments. They are accepting applications and appointments on a rolling basis. Anyone who knows somebody who has rental arrears going back to March 2020 is encouraged to contact CVOC. You can call them directly or go to their website on information on how to apply.

**Matt Serratto-** Right now I think the big thing is getting the word out right now on this project. Getting the money out is an important thing right now.

**John C-** Yes there is, the way this program was set up, the Department of Treasury for the Round 1 program, there was an allocation to the State as well as to the local jurisdiction, in this case Merced County. We bifurcated at the 50% mark, so the State is taking application for the 51-80% but there is quite a bit of funding, each of us received approximately \$8 million dollars for services. There is quite a bit of funding left. There is also an Emergency Rental Assistance 2 program from the American Rescue Plan that made a similar amount of funding available so quite a bit of funding available for rental assistance, rental arrears, and prospective rent up to 3 months for those that are income eligible and impacted by COVID. Public messaging is important part; the State has kicked up their messaging. They have a local partner network that CBO's and members of the CoC would be interested in. You can go to the housing is key website. You can participate in three tiers from outreach all the way up to helping people complete their applications. In a conversation with the State, they are looking for local partners

**Gloria S-** Where can she find a summary of this information for this program.

**John C –** A presentation of the entire program both ERAP 1 and 2 were presented at the BOS. It would be on the video. Will send to Gloria

### **Operation Safe Harbor** (John Palm)

Project's purpose is for those who are homeless and COVID -19 positive or under the investigation of exposure to provide a place to quarantine until their quarantine period end. The project end date is September 30, 2021. Clients who are active in the program are placed at the Merced Inn and Suites during their quarantine period. Referrals must come from a medical provider or Public Health. We have had a few instances where homeless clients have rapid tested positive and cannot secure a medical provider to refer them therefore we work with Public Health nurses for referral processes.

- YTD census through program 19 clients and 1 pet served:
  - Currently 4 active clients in the program
  - YTD referrals 24

No questions

### **Housing for Harvest** (Shelby Molina)

Housing for the Harvest Program has had 12 referrals with 1 being eligible for the program. We've outreached to over 80 locations. Services include quarantine support that includes up to \$1000 per

household, laundry and meal services, wellness checks for families at home. Currently only isolating at home is an option. Program has been extended until 12/31/2021.

**Navigation Center** (Jennifer Carr)

Currently have 41 people with 7 dogs. When we reopen either today or tomorrow, just waiting to hear back from Public Health we are only going to 66 beds instead of 75 due to rapid incline of COVID cases therefore we'll have 25 beds available when we open. We are going to clean and sanitize before making the beds available. Everything else going fine otherwise until we got on the COVID quarantine making things a bit stressful for both staff and participants. Average daily bed count before COVID was up in the 75s.

**Matt S-** How long as the bed count been down to around 41?

**Jennifer C-** We've had people leaving because of the COVID quarantine making us around 41 for the last week.

**Steve R-** What is the process for testing people for COVID?

**Jennifer C-** Process is when they come in is the by next now rapid test. For right now as we've been on quarantine, we have been testing everyone twice a week and took 17 participants down to the fair grounds for PCR testing as well.

**Emergency Housing Voucher** (John Palm)

Housing Authority received 68 vouchers with specific targeted population of those who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, recently homeless, or fleeing domestic violence or human trafficking. Housing Authority can also issue 2x the amount of security deposit with these vouchers. The vouchers will be allocated through the CES process and we are anticipating this should start going out in the next few weeks. Right now we are just finalizing details around notifying individuals and families who are already on the Housing Authority waitlist about the new process. We want to make sure they are informed about how to get into the queue so to speak for these vouchers if they are eligible however they are very targeted to the individuals listed earlier.

**Gloria S-** Question about CES and Housing Authority, are they one in the same and are these individuals who have the vouchers have to find their own housing.

**John P-** No, the Housing Authority and the CES are two different authorities. The CoC has an MOU with the Housing Authority for these vouchers. The CES is currently being overseen by the Community Action Agency, Shelby Molina is the main contact on that. They have a list of everyone who is homeless in the County and they are able to prioritize based off the criteria the CoC has established and find the best fits for these vouchers. Once that happens, this information will be shared with our local providers to help get a packet together to help secure the vouchers with the Housing Authority. Yes these individuals do have to find their own housing however a lot of our local providers what we can consider a housing navigator or landlord liaison that work with the client in order to identify potential housing units but it is ultimately up to the person who was issued the voucher to find housing.

**Chair Comments** (Matt Serratto)

City of Merced Update

Was involved with John, John, Christy, and Maribel in the acquisition of those vouchers and thank you everyone who was involved and thank you to everyone at the housing authority. I know it will be difficult to secure housing with how scarce housing is but still a plus with the vouchers. Potentially 68 additional vouchers will mean 68 more people of the street if we can find those units. We were involved in some creek clean ups and there will be another one August 14<sup>th</sup>. Pretty eye opening going down there and spending a couple of weekends down at 59 and 16<sup>th</sup> encampment. Took a lot of trash out of the creeks, talked to a lot of people in the encampment as well. If anyone wants to join us on August 14, Carol Cabrol at Willbrook at 8 AM we'll do our bimonthly clean up. The focus will be 16<sup>th</sup> and 59 area as well. Hopefully we can learn more, interact and better understand more, get a better feel for what is going on. On September 7<sup>th</sup> City of Merced, we have been working towards this have our affordable housing discussion, start making decisions, everything we have been applying for. In terms of specific homeless things going on, specific policies, sort of our general policy having people out of the high impact zones, parks, creeks, it's going pretty well. It's not perfect, still plenty of people in those areas. Then provide services to the encampments. We have a delated maintenance agreement with encampments on their properties hopefully soon we'll have agreement in hand and we can provide our own services to these encampments. In the budget this year, we've allocated \$60,000 if I remember for other encampments services like handwashing stations.

**Gloria S-** Can you clarify what sanctioned encampments means. I looked back on the minutes from April 7<sup>th</sup> and there was a little clerk notes that says no decision had been made but I had understood there were gonna be some sanctioned encampments.

**Matt S-** Back in April we had a long discussion at the council meeting on that and in terms of sanctioned encampments, we decided against it. In looking at other cities, they tend to build up and then fail. There is a liability and investment in them. Security you have to provide. Often times the sanctioned encampments is going to cost just as much or more than providing housing. Our attitude is more reverse policy where you designate no go zones in high impact areas that really impact the community in a negative way such as downtown, parks, schools, residential areas and prioritize enforcement in those areas and if people end up in spots that are low impact then instead of keeping moving them, then let them be. That has generally been the policy.

#### Regional Planning Meeting

We had three big meetings June 12, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> thanks to John and Christy. Will defer to her on this however this is the product of what John and I mentioned a while back on regional planning.

#### **Board Information & Possible New Action Items**

##### CoC Contract Requirements – Iris G

We will be reviewing all subgrantees and their awarded funds, putting together individual packets that include all the subgrantees requirements and information along with budgeted information and setting up meetings with each individual subgrantees to go over all funds awarded. This will allow for information to be shared and learned not only for the subgrantees however for the CoC as well.

##### Regional Planning – Christy M

We had three great meetings that led to a regional plan draft. An email was sent out recently to ask for volunteers to work on the sections of the draft plan that still need narrative. Thank you to Candice for volunteering. Next steps on the regional plan draft once all sections have been developed is to develop the score card. Once the score card is developed, we can move on to committee development and quarterly reports where we can talk more about the sections we have defined. Before that, this plan draft will probably be

presented to many stakeholders and for the CoC board to review and approve. The plan will be aligned with the 5 action items of the California initiative to address homelessness. If we are acting in a way that is side by side with the State will put us in line for future applications for funding and be ready for State reporting. Next steps are finish the narrative plan, plan will go out for review with stakeholders, CoC board can convert to final and approve. Plan will have accompanying score card that committees will use to help us determine what directions we need to move towards, move away from and which need a little adjustment. I'm very excited about this project and extremely thankful to our project sponsors and everyone who participated.

**Gloria S-** Is there a timeline for completing this plan? Will there be some broader public outreach for feedback to amend the action plan?

**Matt S/John C-** No deadline, soon as possible however do this right is the most important. This is a high priority and it wasn't complete participation therefore a few more meetings might be needed. Part of what we want to do is engage with some of the public especially those with lived experiences. We want this to be a living document and bring this document back to this group say quarterly and make adjustments as needed.

Cost of Homelessness- Christy M

Luke Brown from Community Action Agency worked with Christy on this project that we think is important and we believe some work has been done in the past that we want to honor. If we are talking about project and initiative evaluation, this variable is important to have to plug into our calculations. If we know the cost related to trouble of homelessness, we can then use that information to compare to other projects, in our public messaging and I'm sure this information would be important to our city council, board of supervisors and even the state level. The good news, this is a data project that many localities states and even nation have done. In materials is a data project similar to what we would like to do. This project was done in Florida for the cost of long term homelessness. We discussed what the scope of what a data project like this would be and what variables are needed. Our ask is with Dr. Roussos as we don't have the bandwidth to take on a data project this large but we understand the value of it. This moment is to describe this at a high level what the data project is, who would be the audience, how would it be used and to see if there is any will to move forward with this data project would the UC be able to partner with us to see if it can be a valuable, credible data project that maybe they would be able to accomplish. Within the regional plan will be a glossary of terms the data team is working on to ensure everyone is speaking the same language and this will help with this data project and to ensure we are all on the same page.

**Steve R-** I think this is a great project. Would like together and shop it around to a few groups here at the UC. Would like to say yes however would like to meet and see how can take this on.

**Gloria S-** Will this be county wide data collection and will it cross both incarceration and medical and other services, will it be all inclusive.

**Christy M-** Yes, on your word document in our meeting packet, it includes all the variables we have thought of and would like to grow this if you can think of anymore. If you can think of any that need to be added, please email them to CA inbox.

## **Reports**

CA Informational Report Out

CoC Website- (John P)

We have connected with the Tesseract Institute that works with organizations that helps them overcome their technologies. One of the great things working with them is that they cover half of the cost of the program cost. We are only paying \$8,000 of a \$16,000 cost. They anticipate this will take a 4-week project timeline with training afterwards. We will be responsible for updating and maintaining the website. We have a contract we are working on with an anticipate start date of September 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope to get the website completed by end of September.

No questions

**Prioritization Update** (Shelby Molina)

Reports are being pulled out of HMIS every week on Mondays. There were a total of 250 homeless individuals and 240 families. Of this total, the following is broken out:

No questions

**CoC Program Grant Applications for HUD** (Christy M)

Wanted to inform the group that annual CoC grant applications have arrived. We are working on those her at HSA and should be a finished product soon and have a completed project. These are two grants that come from HUD specifically for the CES and CA Planning grant.

**Grantee/Committee Reports**

**Gloria S-** Want to comment on the report from SSG regarding their comment on having someone working full time on finding affordable units.

**CoC General Membership Comments**

**Steve R-** Gloria, Candice and others had a chance to visit the Village of Hope on Cone St that the Rescue Mission is doing is very impressive and great to see the potential for those families that will be helped. Thank you Bruce for showing us the facility.

**Gloria S-** it looks like a great project and look forward to see what they can do. They will need a lot of help with furnishings though. Would like to know where I can get more information on the Childs and B project as I don't know much about that. I have a lot of questions.

**Matt S-** There has been over a dozen city council meetings. If you want to reach out to Scott the city he has a lot of information on this and can give you a lot of literature on this.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:01pm

Steve Roussos motioned to approve, Matt Serratto Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 @12:01 pm motion approved.

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA**

**Call to Order** **Matt Serratto**  
**Roll Call** **Collaborative Applicant**

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**Notice to Public** **Collaborative Applicant**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-08-21, a local legislative body or state body is authorized to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe. All votes for this meeting will be taken via roll call.

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**Public Comment** **Matt Serratto**

At this time, any person may comment on any item not on the agenda. Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If action is required, it will be referred to the CoC board and placed on a future agenda. With the aim of allowing all interested parties an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. To comment on an item on the agenda please wait until the item is read for consideration. Please state your name for the record.

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**Consent Agenda Items** **Matt Serratto**

- o. Approval of Agenda
- p. Approval of Minutes from August 5, 2021 CoC Board Meeting via Blue Jeans

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**Community Projects**

- Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Operation Safe Harbor
- Housing for the Harvest
- Merced Navigation Center
- Emergency Housing Vouchers

**John Ceccoli**  
**Maribel Baron**  
**Luke Brown**  
**Erin Thomas**  
**Luke Brown**

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**Chair Comments** **Matt Serratto**

- Regional Planning Update



- City of Merced Update

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**Action Items****Matt Serratto**

- HHAP 3 CoC Funding

**Christy McCammond**

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**Board Information & Possible New Action Items****Collaborative Applicant**

- ESG NOFA
- CoC NOFO
- October Meeting
- In Person CoC Meetings 2022

**Christy McCammond****Christy McCammond****Christy McCammond****Maribel Baron**

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**Reports****Collaborative Applicant**

- k. CA Informational Report Out
  - CoC Website
- l. HMIS Informational Report Out
- m. Prioritization Update
- n. Grantee and Committee Reports

**Maribel Baron****Luke Brown****Shelby Molina****Committee Chair**

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**CoC General Membership Comments****Matt Serratto**

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**Adjournment:**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES September 2, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Steve Roussos	Margaret Simmons
Steve Hammond	Lloyd Pareria
Jennifer Mockus	Matt Serratto
Candice Adam Medefind	Steve Tietjen

**Collaborative Applicant Staff in Attendance:**

John Palm	Iris Gunther-Battles	Christy McCammond
John Ceccoli	Maribel Baron	Monica G Valenzuela

**General Members in Attendance:**

Alliance for Community Transformations VCC  
Bethel Community Church  
Bitwise Industries  
CA Central Valley Journey for Justice  
Central California Alliance for Health  
Healthy House  
Livingston Community Medical Center  
Merced County Area Agency on Aging  
Merced County Board of Supervisors  
Merced County Behavioral Health and & Recovery  
Merced County Community Action Agency  
Merced County District Attorney's Office  
Merced County Human Services Agency  
Merced County Office of Education  
Merced County Public Housing Authority  
RH Community Builders  
Sierra Saving Grace  
VA CCHCS- Merced VA  
United Methodist Church of Merced  
UC Merced  
Dr. Jennifer Jones

**Meeting Called to Order:** @11:05am

**Board Quorum:** Yes

**Notice to Public:** Read by Collaborative Applicant

**Public Comment:** Read by CoC Chair Mayor Serratto

**Gloria S-** I don't think it's on the agenda but I would like or appreciate is that the minutes reflect who is not present in the board because I know that it is reflecting who is present. I'd like to know who's missing including the community groups, general membership. I think we need to be a little bit more

accountable to the volunteering that we are doing. Otherwise we are going to see minimal progress, so I'd like the consideration of the board for this.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

- m. Approval of Agenda
- n. Approval of Minutes from June 2021 - No Comments  
Steve Tietjen motioned to approve, Lloyd Pareira Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 @ 11:11am motion approved.

### **Emergency Rental Assistance Program** (John Ceccoli)

Emergency Rental Assistance Program, as everyone should be aware there are a couple of those programs. One was through the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2020. The second one was a part of the American Rescue Plan act. The first program, the County of Merced partnered with CVOC. That program is set to end here roughly at the end of September 2021. Some of the reasoning behind that program ending is a shift completely to the state program to make sure that there is a uniform program in the County. When it initially rolled out, there were two different programs, a state program that paid up to 80% and 25% of future rents and then Merced County's program which paid 100% of rental arrears. Though anyone at 80% or below area median income can go to the state website and apply for rental assistance going back to April 1, 2020. Once those two programs are combined they will be able to pay up to 18 months of rent for families who are at the AMI portion. Our local program which was provided by the CVOC was able to assist over 500 individual and families with rental arrears and utility arrears as well as some perspective rent in an amount of over 2 million dollars. A very successful program. I think one of the challenges we all face with this amount of funding is actually standing up these programs and administering them. The bandwidth it takes especially in regards to the administrative funding that's allocated to these programs. We have been really happy with the job CVOC has done.

### **Operation Safe Harbor** (Maribel Baron)

The project's purpose is for those who are homeless and COVID- 19 positive or under the investigation of exposure. The purpose is to provide a place to quarantine until their quarantine period ends. This project has been extended until June 30, 2022. Clients who are active in the program are placed at the Merced Inn and Suites during their quarantine period. Referrals for this program do need to come from a medical provider or a public health employee. We have had some instances where a homeless individual who has rapid tested positive or PCR tested positive, cannot secure a medical provider referral, therefore we have assisted with working with public health nurses to get the referral. So if you come in contact with anybody who is unable to see a doctor but has tested positive contact us and we can help with that referral.

- YTD census through the program has been 22 with 1 pet
  - Currently we have only 1 active client in the program
  - YTD referrals we have received 32 referrals total

No questions

**Housing for Harvest** (Luke Brown)

We have actually had an uptick of quadruple amount of clients in this week for this program as compared to the last few months. We had almost no participation, so it's good that the program is serving its need, it's also a reminder that COVID is very present in our community. We are very fortunate that we do have this program in our community now to serve the farm workers. Families that have received the assistance have been very grateful with the additional cash assistance and the groceries so they don't have to leave their homes and they can isolate.

**Yvonnia B-** How many participants have you had this past week? Has it been more monetary vs housing?

**Luke B-** It's been monetary mostly. Though our program did shift in the new year, mostly everybody is isolating in their home. Just so everybody is aware, folks who have come across someone who is COVID positive or been exposed and have worked in agriculture settings such as a field, we can assist individuals with a \$1000 cash to encourage them to stay home. This can help make up for the wages lost as well as groceries and then we also provide support just on wellness checks and information to health resources also.

**Helidee** - I was just wondering if there was any proof required for someone who has been exposed or COVID positive prior to them becoming eligible?

**Luke B.** – Yes, documentation is required. That could be test results for their positive results, it could be a letter from their employer, or even accepting the rapid test as well.

**Navigation Center** (Christy McCammond)

**Christy M** – The report as of 8:23 this morning says they currently have 66 participants, 7 pets, and are at full capacity. They are back at COVID capacity. 75 is the non-COVID protocol capacity and the Navigation Center did open to that full capacity however with a rise in cases, and the direction of Public Health, when they re-opened they decided to go back to COVID protocol of 66 beds. We have had some great news about the partners there on site rejoining the team after the quarantined time period. The folks are still receiving all of the enhanced services and everything seems to be back to normal and back to usual business at the Navigation Center. Navigation Center has been opened since March 29. We did have some great success in finding permanent placement for up to 6 people in the last 60 days. One of which was a family; a mother, a father, an adult daughter and a dog; so that is some of the good news of the Navigation Center.

**Emergency Housing Voucher** (Luke Brown)

We are issuing them out to clients in the community that were identified though CES. 31 vouchers have been issued into the community to partner agencies who are working with their clients. That was as of yesterday. As of the vouchers that gone out, we have 9 that have been returned, meaning there ready for submission. We are reviewing those packets with those workers to make sure all the documents are included and nothing is missing from the application. Right now we have those 9 that we are ready to send over to the Housing Authority for approval. From there clients of course get their orientation and then can start looking for housing.

**Gloria S-** I have a question about whether the voucher expires if the people are not able to locate housing?

**Luke B -** That has been an issue in the past. A lot of these clients will get assistance to help identify housing from our partner agencies vs looking for housing independently. We will also be having some additional funding that's coming in through Rapid Housing which is allowing different partners to offer more incentives to landlords to make things more competitive, to get our clients in the door. We're hoping for a combination of everyone working together utilizing those resources combined with the voucher hopefully we can get over some of those hurdles we've had in the past where it's really difficult for these clients to find housing with the vouchers. However, yes if housing is not found then the vouchers would expire

**Steve R-** Is there an estimate for what the success rate with the vouchers and finding housing?

**Luke B-** I don't have the numbers from last initiative that took place. I wasn't really in charge of that initiative. We will be tracking all this information so we can definitely report out on that.

**John C-** I can help out with that Luke. Our utilization rate, the referrals, was about 26% so about 1 in 4 of individuals referred were able to secure housing. The Housing Authority has been a partner in extending that as long as they have good communications with the recipient and the providers themselves are good advocates to stay on top of that. We're hoping for a little bit higher utilization rates, that's about the same rate they have with their housing choice vouchers.

**Matt Serratto -** Luke, the addition 68 vouchers that we just obtained, any new thoughts about the liability of those? How effective are those going to be? What's your realistic assessment of what sort of impact that's going to make?

**Luke B-** I would honestly be guessing. Our strategic approach now is to target more of individuals in our community that will need the ongoing rental assistance for a long duration. We're hopeful that that should have some good impact as far as individuals that maybe high utilizers of our system. Meaning frequent the emergency room, incarcerations, folks coming in from these encampments. So that's really been our target area, which is incredibly difficult. We're hopeful to make an impact in that regards to targeting towards more vulnerable individuals. While we have also rapid housing assistance going on to target individuals who may be less vulnerable, who may only need help for a few months just to get back on their feet. So we're kind of doing a two prong approach here to maybe really try and make the most impact we can and as quickly as we possibly can.

**John C-** I think some of the resources the board has made available for landlord incentives to Luke's point trying to use these funding sources, so we can give landlord incentives through some of the other funding where we can do the double deposits. The emergency housing voucher there is certain case management, I think maybe most importantly for Luke, was the resources made available to hire a full time coordinated entry system data manager, since these are going through coordinated entry. She's able to help the communication between the Housing Authority and the providers and the clients as well and kind of keep on top of that. So I just wanted to add that layer as well the resources that boards directed for rental assistance and landlord incentives and the addition of a staff member to help out with the coordinated entry system and these vouchers. We're hopeful that that will result in more success than we've seen working. The time line for these vouchers, we have until September 30, 2022.

**Gloria S-** To be eligible for these vouchers, does a person need to have suffered from COVID or non COVID related?

**Matt S-** These vouchers are free from COVID.

**Chair Comments** (Matt Serratto)

City of Merced Update

I was informed that Turning Point did a pretty thorough account of the unsheltered in the City of Merced throughout the month of August. Actually somewhat positive news, the unsheltered account was 193, which was down from the point in time count in January of 224. Also down from the point in time count in 2019. Everybody knows that the point in time count is never a precise endeavor however some encouraging news that a little bit of progress is being made. We'll see in January 2022 point in time count occurs as to whether or not there's continues to be some progress made as we kind of come through COVID.

The significant movement with Caltrans and the City of Merced on encampment management. We have been working at the City of Merced over the past few months on arranging and delegating maintenance screen with Caltrans, that agreement has finally been finalized. So now Caltrans will pay us up to \$75,000 a year, we essentially send them the bill to provide trash service to the encampments. There is also money budgeted in the City of Merced budget this year to provide other services to the encampments as well. Were excited about that, being able to be much more proactive and much more consistent about refuse management in the encampments. I believe the plan in the next two weeks is to partner with Caltrans and do significant cleanups at 13th and G, the Home Depot encampment and potentially under the 16th street bridge, as well as 3 Caltrans properties whether its major encampments within the city. Again, we continue forward on a lot of the big projects for the next realm of projects with the Childs apartments, Affordable Housing Complex, and with 30 permeant supportive units and 120 units; 119 units total. Also the Rescue Mission is proceeding with their Cone Avenue project, really an exciting project as well. Hopefully we'll have some significant move by the end of the year on the next generation of projects or the next round of projects. A lot of good movement I think on more affordable, better, dedicated homeless housing be it through Project Room Key, be it through Modular Home Buildings, had a lot of good meetings on that. With Prefabricated Modular homes, tiny Homes, those sort of things, so hopefully we'll be able to make an impact and really add a significant number of dedicated permanent homeless units over the next year or so.

**Gloria S-** I wonder what is the arrangement with Caltrans with regards to those locations that you mentioned? Are they just going to move them on, sweep them off, what is the plan?

**Matt S-** Its Caltrans property so ultimately it's up to them. It's a health issue right now and it's there is so much trash that in order to clean it properly you have to move people off and this has been done by Caltrans in other properties, in other cities as well which is to temporarily move people off while its being cleaned and as soon as its done you allow people to come back. This has been done with some success in Stockton and other areas as well. So I think that's the general plan right now is while the properties are being cleaned, because you got to get in there with pretty significant equipment.

**Candace M** – I just wanted to ask about project home key. Last round, last year I think it added about 6,000 beds for homeless throughout the State and now Newsom I heard on the radio the other day is saying they want to add 10s of thousands of beds with the new round of funding which is going to come out pretty quick here. What is the city doing to prepare for that? Do we have any projects were looking at developing so we can apply to that funding?

**Matt S** – The city has been pretty aggressive about talking to hotel owners and seeing if any of them are available for acquisition for Home Key Project. You know all property negotiations, a lot of its all confidential and private stuff that I’m not necessary privy to but I know this, I can tell you the city’s been very involved in looking to acquire properties. For some of the property owners it might make sense, for other ones it doesn’t make sense for them. I know that there has been a number of places that have been discussed and a number of places that have made contact.

**Candace M**- Do you feel confident that we will get an application in?

**Matt S**- You know I don’t know. Hard to say. I know that there’s been a lot of work done, I think if there’s a deal to be had, if it’s possible, I think we will do it. From what I know and again this could all change because these are all kind of private business deals, is you know a classic Home Key refurbishing a hotel is kind of a 50/50. That just depends on again just being able to get a deal done with a property owner. If not then we have other of options as well with shipping container homes, with modules homes and that sort of stuff. Which I think home key can be used to an extent to fund those as well.

**Candace M**- Do you know if the County is having any discussion around this?

**Matt S**- John C would be a better source for that. I know they certainly are but I can’t be 100% sure.

**John C**- We are absolutely at the table having conversations, coordinating with the City of Merced, discussing with all key players about preparations. We are part of the conversation. Those are policy decisions that we require direction on. Getting interested developers to put proposals together, identify land, and get back to whoever the eligible jurisdiction.

**Matt S**- There’s a lot of action in this arena Candace. There’s a lot of, be it home key or be it modular homes or shipping container homes or some sort of other projects. There’s certainly funding as well, so hopefully, you know within the next 3-6 months we can really make some significant progress and have some projects pretty close to being under construction. At least that’s my hope.

### **Board Information & Possible New Action Items**

#### **HHAP 3 CoC Funding**– Christy M (Read through the BAI)

This Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Grant is the third round of one-time state funding, and is intended to assist eligible cities, counties, and Continuum’s of Care address challenges associate with individuals experiencing homelessness.

Merced Continuum of Care has elected to utilize previous rounds of this one-time funding for awarded Community Based Organizations of prior Request for Proposals. A Letter of Intent from Merced Continuum of Care is due to Sate of California Business, Consumer Services, and Financing Agency no later than October 15, 2021 and final applications will be due before June 30, 2022. For you reference past rounds included:

- HHAP Year 1 in the amount of \$716,227.19
- HHAP Year 2 in the amount of \$338,893

Further, HHAP Grant Round 3 builds upon the investments made in previous rounds of HHAP funding and is a \$1 billion grant to support local jurisdictions to continue developing a unified regional response to homelessness. As with previous HHAP Grant Round 3 features broad, flexible eligible use categories to reduce barriers for entry and increase access to permanent housing. To complement this flexibility, HHAP Grant Round 3 employs a new accountability framework that includes establishing specific and

measurable performance goals and bonus funds for grantees that meet their goals. With the addition of HHAP Round 3, the Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency will continue to work with local jurisdictions and Continuums of Care's on this effort and build upon the foundation established with past rounds of HHAP funding to build stronger collaboration and partnership in communities across the states.

Given that summary today, we're requesting, recommending, and requiring action to authorize the Collaborative Applicant to submit the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Grant Round 3 Letter of Intent in the amount of \$909,988.45 to the state of California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, Division of California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council and all documents related to the HHAP 3 grant.

**Gloria S-** One of the reports, the monthly grant report outs from Mission Merced the grant type says HHAP it doesn't say 1,2 on it at all but it says 0 expenditures, total grant expenditures 0, the remaining funding balance 80,000. No one has been served, there is no comment or additional information on it. So I'm just wondering how long has this been or is it a recent allocation of moneys to be used from one of those resources?

**Christy M-** There are community based organizations that receive HHAP funds for those 1st and 2nd rounds and they have also received other types of grant funds. There are some grant funds which expire before these HHAP grant funds. So if your question is related to a curiosity about why these funds haven't been spent? Then it is because they are probably using other funds which expire first. And if that is not your question please clarify and we can answer to that a little bit more to your needs.

**Gloria S-** I think it would have been helpful for there to be a little explanation you know why that is, that it just seems like someone is sitting on some money and that should be used you know to be helpful to end homelessness and apply it to that.

**Christy M-** Point well taken. These grants sources are complicated and that we have been very fortunate to access many grants funds up to almost 20 different grant funding sources, just in Merced county. All with various eligible uses and various expirations and spend down schedules. So it does get pretty dynamic and the tracking of that gets pretty dynamic. That's why we are so grateful for team here of Collaborative Applicant family.

**Maribel B-** Yes, Gloria I'd like to add that the HHAP round 2, we recently received and finalized our standard agreement with the state, in July. Contracts were made with the community based partners not too long before and after that time, so they only had that money for a very short time. We're in September, they probably had moneys for a matter of a few months. In regards to HHAP round 1 the standard agreement was finalized for the end of 2020, but it wasn't awarded out to community based partners until around May of this year. So again the moneys that they have for HHAP 1 and HHAP 2 are very recent.

**Gloria S-** Thank you. Yea I think, you know just to kind of add because I think as we get more grants, it becomes really confusing, so if maybe there could be a document that has like the start of something or the progress of certain grants and who it's going to and you know we'd have a better idea of a summary. I know that is going to take time to put together. But at least that way it would make sense to be able to know where were at with funds and you their purposes.

**Maribel B-** Most defiantly and if I just could remind everyone, off the top of my head I don't remember either the May or June CoC meeting, we did provide just a really quick sort of outline of what moneys were awarded out of the Notice of Funding that we did back in February. We finalized most contracts in



May. Gloria, I can send that back out to you if you'd like in case you don't have it from that meeting. But most defiantly well work on getting an overview out to everyone.

**Christy M-** The HHAP 3 funds have not yet been awarded because we are asking at this point just to be able to apply for them. So once those are awarded we will probably have a competitive process to award those to community based organizations.

**John C-** I have just a quick comment in relation to HHAP round 3 and much related to Gloria's question, this is the first time the State is requiring a Letter of Intent. Typically, they just required an application and Christy did a good job kind of detailing that below that the BCSH Agency will be working with us in order to get that framework. That's why you see today it's just a Letter of Intent between now and June 30, 2022 were we also have to submit an action plan. The reason I mentioned that is because everyone knows we have been working on our regional plan and were likely going to incorporate that into a State required action plan to address homelessness. So to Gloria's point about money coming out and spending it quickly, you're not likely going to see that with this one. There's a couple of challenges. One is just bandwidth and timing. Well talk later on about ESG NOFA. A couple of weeks ago it was quickly followed on by the CoC NOFO. The three CA reps you see in the director's conference room are having to shift priorities based on timelines and that really is going to likely impact the release of the those plus all the requirements of state. So for this grant here the State is going to provide the Continuum of Care once they receive the Letter of Intent a 20% amount as opposed to the full amount and the remainder of the funding will come once the action plan and the actual grant applications. I just wanted to bring that up with a couple context. There's a lot of funding that's out there and were working on getting it into a digestible format for questions like Gloria's which think are very important. Who's got funding, where's it at, what activities? Then you know our job is to track the grant monitoring, the spend downs, grades those funding sources and their various end dates to be as impactful as possible. We just ask for a little grace as we do that. There working really hard I know that I see it every day as were working side by side. It's going to take us some time but our intent is to get exactly what you're asking for Gloria, a really good kind of a summary of a strategic plan going forward. From a funding perspective as well as from activities perspective and to do that to the best of our abilities.

**Gloria S-** Thank you John. I just had one other suggestion is that to be able to really clarify if moneys or grants are being made by the federal level government or if it's from the State or if there are any private types of donations, because I think that of what I've seen in the past is that sometimes there's a condition of matching funds. So what I think what I'd like to do is really kind of have an idea of things increasing and things decreasing with regards to funds and from what areas. Our charge is really to end homelessness. It's not to build another big monster right, that dependency but at the same time I think all that Is helpful in figuring out next steps, so thank you.

**Dr. Tietjen-** I'd be happy to make a motion to support the Letter of Intent being submitted. I'd also like to make a quick comment on Gloria's request and Johns comment. I really believe that having a spreadsheet that has kind of a simple layout of where money has gone. Not only is it accountability, accountability it also a great way for all of us as board members and community members to be able to articulate what's going on and how money is being spent in Merced County and to communicate to the public that were spending the money on solving the problem and were working on getting our fair share for Merced County. So I'd look at this once a month I don't live it every day so it good to have a document that makes it simple for me so that I can keep it right on the back shelf of my mind when I'm talking to feel about homelessness and what's happening in Merced county I think we don't have to have it every month I don't think, quarterly or maybe even semiannual kind of spreadsheet that we would want to see after a new funding has gone out I don't think we need to see it every month. But certainly that

kind of document would be helpful. But all that being said I'd like to move that we authorize a collaborative applicant submit the homeless housing assistance (HHAP) program grant round 3 Letter of Intent.

Steve Tietjen motioned to approve, Lloyd Pareira Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 @ 11:57am motion approved.

#### ESG NOFA (Maribel B.)

Collaborative Applicant has been pretty busy as John referenced earlier. The NOFA come in for ESG and we also had the NOFO come in for the CoC Consolidated Renewal. So I'm just going to give a little brief update, the timeline for both that we created for both processes were included in the packet. So I'm going to start with ESG then talk about CoC NOFO.

ESG NOFA did come out August 17th and this is the balance of State. ESG NOFA it is for two components the non-competitive and the regional competition. If you see the timeline we are going to release a request for proposal to the community for those that are on this meeting. Hopefully you should have received our workshop. We've scheduled a workshop for the ESG NOFA to kind of go over what to expect in the proposal; what to include in your responses if you're going to apply on September 9th. If you are on this meeting and you did not receive an invite, please reach out to either Christy or I or the Collaborative Applicant to ensure you're on that email. The workshop is going to be held at Buena Vista 3376 Highway 59 Buena Vista. The ESG NOFA is for again the non-competitive Rapid Housing and a regional competition for as well Repaid Housing HMIS Homeless prevention street outreach and emergency shelter. The timeline does indicate when the RFP responses should be received, when we will have them scored, then they will be presented at the October meeting to the CoC board to select a winner based off the ranking. The winners will be notified on October 8th, and will be posted publicly by that time on the CoC website. Any questions or information that's needed for the ESG NOFA? I should also add I apologize the request for proposal will launch on September 13th. Everybody that was included in the workshop will also receive the invite for request for proposal and all of this will be publicly posted. While our CoC website I being created, everything is on the county website. Once our CoC website is up and running, which hopefully that's at the end of this month, well transfer everything over to our CoC website. Any questions about the ESG NOFA?

No questions

#### CoC NOFO (Maribel B.)

This is for the CoC has released a NOFO from HUD for existing projects that are receiving HUD dollars. This doesn't mean that new projects cannot be included but it's a 2-part process. So we did schedule a workshop for this on September 16th. Again everybody should have received an email, if you haven't please let us know so we can definitely include you. There's a Letter of Intent for all of those receiving existing HUD dollars for their projects. They're going to get a Letter of Intent on September 7th. That is your application, you will submit that back to the Collaborative Applicant, and we will rank that for your existing projects. For all new projects, if your wanting to submit a project for new HUD dollars, were going to release an RFP September 13th. Busy month for the Collaborative Applicant. That will go out again to everybody that is on the workshop. So if you do not receive RFP notifications on September 13th reach out to us if you're interested. Once the RFPs are returned the responses again, they will be scored, they will be presented to the CoC board again October 8th notifications to everybody whether their awarded or not awarded will be sent to everybody October 8th. So this one's a little different it will have

a Letter of Intent as well as a RFP. Unfortunately, these are very short time frames for both applications, so it is a quick RFP process it is a quick application process the scores are going to be scored within a matter of days so this is a very fast turnaround. Right now a lot of our attention is being directed to the ESG NOFA and the CoC NOFO.

No questions

#### October Meeting

Due to all of this, we need to take to the board the responses for the ranked responses for the Letter of Intent NOFO, the RFP NOFO, and the RFP NOFA, we are asking the board to close the session for October 2021 due to the board needing to approve the awardees based on the ranking. Everything will be put on the website showing everyone who is awarded and everyone that was not awarded. It will post publicly but we are going to be closing the October board meeting to board members only so this discussion can be held. We just wanted to let everybody know that the October 7th board meeting will be closed just to board members. We are looking to have everything publicly posted by the following business day. By that time our CoC website should be up and running so it will be posted on the CoC website, fingers crossed if not then we will put it on the County website. An email has already been sent to the CoC board members informing them of this change to the board meeting.

**Gloria S-** I'm wondering if that's legal to do that close it off?

**Maribel B-** Gloria we did check the California code regulations as well as the CFRs, it doesn't indicate that we cannot as everything is going to be publicly posted. There's not going to be anything that's not publicly posted. The minutes will be publicly posted, the award attendees will be publicly posted, those that are not awarded will be also publicly posted.

**Gloria S-** But why should the meeting be closed then? How will we know that there's a quorum of the board, how will the public know that?

**Maribel B-** Most definitely, the minutes will have the same minute's format that we have now. I can take this back to the CA here, we can discuss this with Mayor Serratto, and see if we want to change that, but yes we are following completely the CCR 8404 it does indicate that as long as everything is publicly posted. But we can definitely bring that back to the Collaborative Applicant for more discussion.

**Matt S-** On a side note we are required to have 9 meetings for a year total, I believe.

**Maribel B-** Yes we have 1 meeting scheduled every single month. We have technically a total of 12, we canceled the one for July so we have a total of 11 for the year.

**Steve R-** Couple things one is the workshops on the proposals, I really know important it is to get our community based organizations help and preparing their proposals, I'd encourage if there's a way to make sure those workshops are recorded and that way if whoever can't attend they can still maybe watch those on Zoom or BlueJeans or whatever. It would be great if they could be recorded for folks that can't come.

**Maribel B-** Most definitely, Dr. Russo they are going to be recorded. We did send out a BlueJeans link with the invite and were also going to be posting that recording on the website, whether it be the CoC website or the County website. We will be having a notice to public posted hopefully by tomorrow no later than Tuesday on the county website for time being. We are held to specific standards to the regulations so we have to post everything publicly. So we will be ensuring that even the workshops are being recorded and posted. We'll also be transcribing them into minutes and posting the minutes.

### **In person meetings for 2022 (Maribel B.)**

The Collaborative Applicant would like to take the CoC meetings back to in person, however, we do understand that there has been a spike in Covid-19 cases, we are going to keep that in mind. If the cases drop, we would like to go back to in person CoC meetings. We will be sending out the 2022 meeting schedule in November. You might see a little different format to meetings, we would like to incorporate some CoC training. We'll talk more about that in November when we can get the schedule finalized. We'll keep an eye the spike and again if cases, if we could see a drop in cases then we would like to go back to in person meetings at the Buena Vista site.

### **Reports**

The CA informational report out

### **CoC Website (Maribel Baron)**

We just wanted to give an update on the website, John gave a great update last month. We were hoping to start work yesterday; I think work will start tomorrow. There was one final thing with the contract, we needed some insurance from the vendor. We did receive the insurance yesterday from the vendor and the contract is downtown to be signed. I was told it should be executed tomorrow Friday September 3rd. The vendor is ready to go, he still believes the website will be ready to go by the end of September, even with the 2day delay. He's actually anticipating to have the website done a lot faster than 30days but we are giving them (they are contracted for 3 months) 1 month of web design and 2 months of training. As soon as the website is fully functional, hopefully fingers crossed by the end of the month, we will send out the link, the URL to everybody, so you can see the new and improved CoC website. As soon as we can everything will get updated and transferred over to the website. Were very excited about this.

**Matt S-** That'll be a good way to kind of along the lines of the conversation we were having earlier, that'll be a good way to communicate with the public and a good way to be more transparent both to the general membership and the public.

**Maribel B-** Yes we've been talking about different pages we want to have and we received different notifications for trainings that really don't pertain to us. Just different things we can post for the public that might benefit. So were really looking to post quit a few pages a lot of informational items.

**Matt S-** Yes that could be an incredible source of information to for the good work that so many people do.

### **HMIS (Luke Brown)**

September will be a busy month because as we do need to prepare with all current providers using HMIS to transition over to Clarity. Renee has been working like crazy behind the scenes to try to make sure this transition happens as smoothly as possible. We did a data migration from our old HMIS system to this current system we will be utilizing. We're going to be sending out a schedule and try coordinate with the different agencies for different trainings that they'll need to do in preparation for this launch. We'll be sending out email notifications. There's going to be data stop day entry, where we want folks to stop entering data; so that we can make sure we have a smooth transition of all that data in our current system to the new system. There's going to be a lot of correspondence going out. We ask that the providers when emailed respond as quickly as possible so we can move this along as smoothly as possible. Were on a

very tight timeline here and so we need everyone's support on this to make sure we can get this off the ground. We're pretty excited about the clarity product the functionalities are just so more even to the mapping the outreach components the built in coordinating entry system stuff that can happen through the system. It's really expansive compared to what we've been utilizing. So we're pretty excited about the launch. That also means we need people to be responsive and work with us to make sure we get them trained and ready to go.

**Steve R-** I just want to emphasize how this is a really big deal and I think, Luke and the team just moved it forward and they didn't give up. So I'm just real excited to see this going forward with Clarity. Thanks Luke.

**Luke B-** I would mostly say thanks Renee. I support her as much as I can, that's all on her.

**Renee M-** Your welcome. I just wanted to add in conclusion the go live date is marked for September 24th. We're sticking to the guideline, everything looks like it's moving over pretty quickly and we did get compliments that our files we passed through, they said they look pretty darn good looks one of the best they've seen in a while; meaning there's no hiccups, no major errors, no data mapping that has to be remapped if you will. So it's looking pretty good.

**Steve R-** Thank you Renee, and to the board I just want to say going forward and in the past we've had some challenges in terms of just of where we score in terms of data and what I think Renee and Luke and others have been doing to move us forward, sometimes we take it for granted, but it's such an important thing. So going forward having this kind of information being able to get reports with process and outcomes that we may not have looked at ever. I think is going to be great, so I wanted to emphasize its going to be a big deal. Thank you.

**Renee M-** Yes it is, thank you. The reporting end of this with Clarity is by far more than what I have ever had. The reports that are put out there for you and are available for everybody are hands down 100% the type of report that you would want to look at. They can also wright many quarries if you will and print reports. So looking good on the reporting end.

### **Prioritization Update (Shelby Molina)**

For by nameless of CES we have age population between the ages 50-64 total of 119 active homeless individuals. Over the age of 65 we have a total of 32 active homeless individuals'. Youth between the ages of 18-24 a total of 11 active homeless individuals. Veterans, we have 15 active homeless individuals. Women 86 active homeless individuals and those with mental health and behavioral health issues 69 active homeless individuals and for a grand total on by the nameless I have 291 active homeless individuals.

**Matt S-** These numbers include sheltered and unsheltered or just sheltered?

**Shelby M-** This is all the homeless population within Merced County that were able to track so it could be people who are sheltered, people who are utilizing shelter, transitional housing, bridge housing, or either one of the D Street Navigation or B Street Navigation.

**John C-** Quick request, is there a way we could keep track of these numbers and have moralize what the numbers were for September, maybe a quick good snapshot of where ere going with our response system or priorities?

**Shelby M-** So what exactly, you want me to keep these numbers for months?

**John C-** Yes, if there could be a document where we could track the numbers that you just put out, I think that could be helpful from a data reporting and collection system effective.

**Shelby M-** For you John or just to have it just in case anybody needs it?

**John C-** I think just keep it just in case it comes up it would be nice to follow up on those numbers from a historical standpoint.

**Shelby M-** No problem, yes I can do that once a month.

**Guadalupe R-** Just a little clarification, 9 of the 15 veterans on our list are currently helped with HUD vash or WESTCARE so we are working on getting them housed and some of the others have not been identified as being veterans and were still trying to look for them.

**Matt S-** Where are the 9 right now are they currently on the street or are they in some sort of shelter?

**Shelby M-** They're in motel assistance and couple of them are either at the navigation center or the D Street shelter.

**Candace M-** I just wanted to point out that half of our homeless population are now 50 and older. I keep talking about this but it's a real fast growing population. I just wanted to mention that.

**Matt S-** Agreed it seems to that would be just more in general and easier population to help but I know we've had these conversations but projects that are focused on people over 50, I think would be a good use of resources and affective.

**Kristin B** – I just want to talk a little bit about what's been going on, earlier this year we a grant from HUD to do a third permanent support housing program. Since June we have had someone dedicated from 2-5pm Monday thru Friday looking for units that would qualify for us. They have to be 1 bedroom; we have 10 -1 bedrooms. We have had the hardest time finding any units that we could lease. We have run into places who where they say they have a six month waiting period, a 1 year waiting period. We have run into 3 units that have a charge to even be placed on their waiting list of \$100. So 3 places in town are requiring \$100 just to get on their waiting list. So I just wanted to put that out there if these anything anybody can do to help us to find or give us leads or anything to secure these units. Were really trying and it's been a huge struggle

**Matt S-** You work with a realtor or property manager?

**Kristin B** – No we constantly call the properties in town. Well we do call the property managers, but we don't have a specific person from a property manager looking every day, no.

**Matt S-** I think we all understand the situation were in with housing being so tight. There's currently over 2700 units, at least in the city of Merced, that have been approved by the council but haven't been built yet. So were hoping within the next few years when all those get built, plus more plus everything that will hopefully go in around the UC. A couple of thousands more out there well start to see this market and

**John C-**I'm going to have John Palm reach out to you. He's been doing some work with some landlord liaison type work and some of the other community based organizations. Maybe that would be beneficial for you. Thank you for bringing this up it's an important topic and one we need to address for the Mayor's point kind of head on and looking at inventory and how we can increase it and I know Candace made that point many times pointing out resources to increase this inventory.

## **CoC General Membership Comments**

**Maribel B-** There was a comment in the chat. From Norma C, it would be great to offer hybrid options for those that might be still apprehensive to attend in person meetings or have company guidelines that must be followed.

**Gloria S-** I just wanted to share that a single mom with two adult kids, I referred them to the New Direction to get assistance because they were on the verge of becoming homeless. No income had been involved with death benefits from the husband, they expired. New Direction referred them to Sierra Saving Grace. Then what I understand is that Sierra Saving Grace said you must first get the public assistance to deny your assistance before. So mean time, the clock is ticking and so one of the adult children tried to get a job but because he doesn't have or never had a driver's license he did not get the job. Now that there's obstacles. I think at the same time I'm asking myself, I thought there was a little bit more follow up with regards to people, sometimes it's a hardship for people on how to be successful; preventing, not becoming homeless. I just wanted to share that and I think we're all learning there's always rolling changes with regards to eligibility. I just wanted to share that and also like to learn what should have been the actual step for them to take

**Matt S. –** Gloria I encourage you to follow up with Kristin B or somebody else from Sierra Saving Grace.

**Lloyd P-** Also workforce investment is a good spot for that person to go I believe. They'll help them get qualified to get a job and I think that may include a drivers' license as well, if you can't get a driver's license through Sierra Saving Grace. But people looking for work please always recommend workforce investment. We have a great team that's working really hard to help people and it's really hard to find people that want work, and so if they want to work we can help them.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:28pm

No motion needed to adjourn.

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**October 7, 2021 | 11:00am-1:00pm | 3376 N State Hwy 59, Buena Vista**

Video Conference Option- 1.408.419.1715 Meeting ID: 385 305 208;

<https://bluejeans.com/385305208>

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**Call to Order**

**Matt Serratto**

**Roll Call**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Notice to Public**

**Collaborative Applicant**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-08-21, a local legislative body or state body is authorized to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe. All votes for this meeting will be taken via roll call.

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**Public Comment**

**Matt Serratto**

At this time, any person may comment on any item not on the agenda. Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If action is required, it will be referred to the CoC board and placed on a future agenda. With the aim of allowing all interested parties an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. To comment on an item on the agenda please wait until the item is read for consideration. Please state your name for the record.

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- q. Approval of Agenda
- r. Approval of Minutes from Sept 2, 2021 CoC Board Meeting via Blue Jeans

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**Action Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- 1) ESG NOFA Responses Christy McCammond
- 2) CoC HUD Applications Responses Christy McCammond
- 3) CoC Written Standard (Anti-Discrimination) Christy McCammond
- 4) CoC Written Standard (Rating and Ranking) Christy McCammond



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**Board Information & Possible New Action Items**  
**HDAP Allocation Notice FY 2021-2022**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Reports**

**Collaborative Applicant**

- o. CA Informational Report Out
  - CoC Website

John Palm

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**CoC General Board Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

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**Adjournment:**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 7, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Steve Roussos	Tim Adam	Jennifer Mockus	Margaret Simmons
Lloyd Pareria	Matt Serratto	Steve Hammond	

**Collaborative Applicant Staff in Attendance:**

John Palm	Iris Gunther-Battles
John Ceccoli	Christy McCammond

**Meeting Called to Order:** @ 11:05am

**Board Quorum:** Yes

**Notice to Public:** Read by CoC Chair Mayor Serratto

**Public Comment:** Read by CoC Chair Mayor Serratto

No Public Comment

**Collaborative Applicant CoC Website** (John Palm)

We signed a contract to develop a website with a vendor who works with non-profits to develop websites. The cost to the CoC is \$8,000, the entire cost is \$16,000 and the vendor is providing the other \$8,000 for the project. We really have a lot work to help customize this website. We're about two and half weeks into the process. As of right now there is a website however basic at this time. The url is MercedCoc.org. It should be functional in a few weeks. They will be providing training to our staff so we know how to keep it up to date, know how to add additional items to it, etc. We are hoping to have it automated email address for the Collaborative Applicant so you'll be able to email us directly when you have questions and it will come straight to the Collaborative Applicant inbox. What the vendor is putting together is funding opportunities, news updates, how to contact us, how to become a member and how to join a meeting. We sent the vendor about two and a half dozen documents to add to the website. We'll also be including information on homeless events happening in the community such as an event on October 15<sup>th</sup> we have coming up. An outreach event in Los Banos for the homeless. The website will also have simple forms available online for the community and assist with submitting correctly to the Collaborative Applicant which in turn helps us so we can process in a timely fashion. The website is focusing specifically on homeless response. The website will also have a list serve and automatic newsletter feature.

**HDAP Notice** (Christy McCammond)

In yesterday's packet you probably saw the HDAP Notice, there's an allocation for fiscal year 2021-2022, it was in your packet. I also have a sample for you to look at here. HDAP allocation for Merced County for this fiscal year is about \$595,000. But there is also a competitive strategic portion that Merced County will be applying for so more to come there. There is a requirement of the State to publicly post

the HDAP allocation for this fiscal year along with program information. So that is here for you now if you'd like to look over it, it's also in your packet's and also emailed it out yesterday as well.

**Action #3 Merced City and County Continuum of Care Policies and Procedures** (Christy McCammond)

In an effort to develop Merced City and County Continuum of Care Policies and Procedures, we have created a standardized templet. We're looking for trusted and well performing policies and procedures from CoCs around the nation. We have the first one to present to you which is the anti-discrimination policy and procedure, again this was in your packets yesterday but I have a sample for you today up at the table if you want to take a look. We're presenting this, I sent it a couple of weeks ago for a sneak peek, so if you have any review or comment about this policy and procedure you can submit that, but we would like to adopt it as one of our CoC's written policies. It is quite important when it comes to the CoC's funding opportunity in this last notice of funding opportunity through HUD. So having this policy in place along with training, will allow us to perform better in the CoC competition and allow us more points which can give an access point to more funds through HUD.

So this policy I did send out a couple or few weeks ago, so we can take comments or review now or we can move to the voting of the acceptance of that policy. Mayor I defer to you for how we want to handle that.

**Matt S.** – What's the will of the group? Go forward today with a vote or discuss and come back with some modifications?

**Steve R.** – It might be nice to have some more time.

**John C.** – We can meet back in November.

**Christy M.** – We can. November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 is a drop dead date for us because the HUD application for the consolidated application is due on November 16<sup>th</sup>. So please take a look at it.

**John C.** – Would you be comfortable perhaps proposing to vote on it today just so we would have it kind of codified and then if we need to make any adjustments to it we could bring it back. I'm just afraid if we don't have a quorum in November it could potentially trip us up.

**Steve R.** – Yea, that's a good idea John.

**Matt S.** – Is there any opposition to the course that John proposed? None. Is there a motion to that affect?

Lloyd P motioned to approve, Steve Roussos Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 motion approved.

**Action #4 CoC written standards rating and ranking** (Christy McCammond)

This another Policy and Procedure for the CoC board review. I have a sample of it here. This policy and procedure really talks about the CoC consolidated application. Specifically, it talks about how renewals in our grant inventory worksheet will be ranked. And the reason it's important is because when we look to rank the renewals, we really have an apple to oranges comparison moment and that is because CES and HMIS, which are as you know required pieces of the CoC mix for HUD, are really hard to compare to

other projects in terms of efficacy and performance of CES and HMIS to say a permanent supportive housing project. It's very, very difficult to use one scoring tool for all projects and so HUD has allowed, and many CoC's across the nation, have adopted the use of policy and procedure that memorializes how we will rank CES and HMIS specifically and how reallocations will be handled. And just a reminder a reallocation is when you take an existing funding pot up for renewal and reallocate it and that could be a decision made for many different reasons. It could be that there is an entity no longer able to handle that body of work, that they typically receive funding for, it could be for a number of reasons for why we could reallocate. This policy and procedure give us a frame work for that, that is fair and open. It also allows us to score and rank our CES and HMIS, further up in the tier 1 section of our Consolidated Applications. Since those pieces are required, it is very important that we continue to get funding for them, for if we don't we might suffer the same fate as some our sisters and brothers in the other CoC's have faced, and that is they put their CES and HMIS in tier 2 and lost funding for them, yet they were still required. So I don't want to put us in that situation, I want to make sure we always have healthy funding for those required elements, so that we don't have to search for other funding for those elements. So this policy and procedure allows us to score in that manner, and to reallocate in the manner prescribed by the policy and procedure. The policy and procedure is not original. I took two different trusted CoCs and looked at others as well and kind of took that language to adopt for our CoC. This is the practice that our consultant has also hoped that we would use. That way we can fully justify our decision about where we are putting things in tier 1 to HUD. We can vote and adopt now and then if we want to amend it later we can do a revision of the policy and procedure.

**John C.** – Did the general membership also receive the mail a couple of weeks ago of this policy?

**Christy M.** – This one was just mailed last couple of days

**John C.** – Due to timing and HUD deadlines, we can move forward with adopting and then bring back to general membership for revisions and ensure in the future we attempt to get out a little sooner.

**Matt S** – Any other questions or is there a motion

Lloyd P motioned to approve, Margaret Simmons Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion approved.

### **Action Item 1 & 2**

**John C.** – I just wanted to give a brief update while Margaret's here. I know typically we reserve comments for the end, I just wanted to give a brief update, Rescue Mission campus on Cone Ave. is still scheduled for a January opening date. We have been working with them on a 20 units of housing.... some transitional for young families and some permanent for veterans, so kind of a big win for our community. Moving forward, they connected with the VA, their coordinating with HUD as far as project based vouchers or tenant based vouchers. We're creating 10 units of permanent housing and 10 units of transitional housing that the Human Services Agency will be working with them for small families. Also I know the City of Merced has made a lot of progress looking at their 119 units, 30 housing units dedicated to people experiencing homelessness. Between those two projects alone were looking at 40 dedicated units for individuals who are experiencing homelessness. As long as I've been involved here, I've never seen that as the case. An application we applied for, No Place Like Home, which was about 168 units of affordable housing, you match that with the 119 the City of Merced got in the pipe line and were looking at 250+ affordable housing units. That application actually has 43 units dedicated to

people that are experiencing homelessness or risk of homelessness. So those 43 units added to the other 4 mentioned 40 units now were at 80 units dedicated to folks who are experiencing homelessness potentially in the pipeline. If we could get funding for that and I know the City has been really active and looking for affordable housing and just talking to developers which is encouraging and nothings in concrete. We just want to paint a picture that things are moving in the right direction and I think it's important we temper our expectations but I also think it's important that this board is well informed that we are moving in the right direction. The action you have taken as a board to allocate resources for our full time data manager, is also paying huge dividends in coordination with the Housing Authority. We've talked to one of our homeless disability advocacy employees' partners, great feedback as far as the coordination of communications. So appreciate what this board has done especially that resource of getting the full time data manager, to manage coordinated entry and let's not kid ourselves, that's requiring kind of a fundamental shift on how we been doing business and you see that here were bringing forth policies and procedures. We want our foundation to be very solid and that's why we are bringing to you and intend to continue to bring to your policies and procedures and processes of how we do business, with the understanding we will be revisiting. I just wanted to make sure Margaret got that update and appreciate you adjusting the agenda. Thank you.

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**November 4, 2021 | 11:00am-12:30pm | Blue Jeans/Conference Call**  
1.408.419.1715 Meeting ID: 385 305 208; <https://bluejeans.com/385305208>

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**Call to Order**

**Matt Serratto**

**Roll Call**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Notice to Public**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Public Comment**

**Matt Serratto**

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- s. Approval of Agenda
- t. Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2021 CoC Board Meeting

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**Community Projects**

- Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Operation Safe Harbor
- Housing for the Harvest
- Merced Navigation Center
- Emergency Housing Vouchers

**John Ceccoli  
Maribel Baron  
Luke Brown  
Jennifer Carr  
Luke Brown**

**Chair Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

- Regional Planning Update
- City of Merced Update

**Action Items**

**Matt Serratto**

**Board Information & Possible New Action Items**

**Collaborative Applicant**

- 100-Day Encampment Challenge
- Distributive Housing Update
- CoC Policies and Procedures
- PIT Methodology
- Alternate Format Language
- Grant Inventory Worksheet
- Regional Plan Draft

**John Palm**  
**John Ceccoli**  
**Christy McCammond**  
**Christy McCammond**  
**Christy McCammond**  
**Christy McCammond**  
**Christy McCammond**

**Reports**

**Collaborative Applicant**

- p. CA Informational Report Out
- q. HMIS Informational Report Out
- r. Prioritization Update
- s. Grantee and Committee Reports

**Maribel Baron**  
**Luke Brown**  
**Shelby Molina**  
**Committee Chair**

**CoC General Membership Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

**Adjournment:**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Steven Tiejn	Margaret Simmons
Steve Roussos	Lloyd Pereira
Jennifer Mockus	
Candice Adam Medefind	

**Collaborative Applicant Staff in Attendance:**

John Palm	Iris Gunther-Battles	Christy McCammond
John Ceccoli	Maribel Baron	

**General Members in Attendance:**

Aspirant Transitional Housing Program  
CA Central Valley Journey for Justice  
Central California Legal Services  
Healthy House  
Independent Living Center  
Merced County Adult & Aging Services  
Merced County Board of Supervisors  
Merced County Behavioral Health and & Recovery  
Merced County Community Action Agency  
Merced County Housing Authority  
Merced County Human Services Agency  
Merced County Rescue Mission  
Salvation Army  
Sierra Saving Grace  
Turning Point Community Programs  
UC Merced

**Meeting Called to Order:** @11:05 am

**Board Quorum:** Yes

**Notice to Public:** Read by Collaborative Applicant

**Public Comment:** Read by CoC Vice Chair Steve Tietjen

No Public Comment

**Consent Agenda Items**

- o. Approval of Agenda



- p. Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2021 - No Comments  
Lloyd Pareria motioned to approve, Steve Roussos Seconds. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 @11:11am  
motion approved.

**Emergency Rental Assistance Program** (Maribel Baron)

The Emergency Rental Assistance program 1 & 2, it is a local program that ended September 30<sup>th</sup>. It is to stream line the state program. The local program that was being held and conducted by CVOC, provided more than \$2.4 million in rental and utility assistance to over 600 tenants in less than 6 months. Applications for this program can be submitted to the State by calling 1-833-420-2122. There is also an online application for those that want to apply for emergency rental assistance by going to [housing.ca.gov](https://housing.ca.gov).

**Candace M.** – Wanted to inform the public that Healthy House now has a grant from the State Emergency Rental Assistance program to assist individuals as well.

**Operation Safe Harbor** (Maribel Baron)

The program has taken an up rise. Operation Safe Harbor as a reminder is for those that are homeless and COVID positive or under the investigation of exposure. For the month of October, we have received over 40 clients, year to date we have 70 clients in the program, currently we have 10 active. We were receiving about 4 or 5 referrals a day for a while. Reminder that those referrals need to come from either Public Health or medical provider if anybody is needing assistance in a referral or retaining a referral please contact the Collaborative Applicant and we can assist with that. Right now the program has an end date of June 30, 2022 and it is still being ran out of Merced Inn & Suites.

**Housing for the Harvest** (Luke Brown)

We currently for the past couple of months have seen a pretty good up take in households served from averaging maybe 1-2 families per month we have increased to about 15 families per month. Currently getting updates on the program from the State on whether or not this program will continue across the State. It seems like the agricultural area continues to be in need of this service.

**Merced Navigation Center** (Maribel Baron)

Jennifer Carr was not able to make the meeting, so we will not have an update on the Navigation Center at this time.

**Emergency Housing Vouchers** (Tracy Jackson)

We have received all the referrals for the vouchers that were allocated to us and we are currently working on issuing those vouchers. We do have some searching for units out there right now and the majority of them will receiving their vouchers fairly soon. That's been a quick program to fill up. CES providers are been doing a great job on sending over the referrals.

**100-day Encampment Challenge** (John Palm)

We're getting ready to kick off next week the 100-day Challenge and that's the system leader session. That's where we are going to be setting some of our goals for the 100-day challenge. Now what this

challenge is that its providing technical assistance from the State as well as the Rapid Results Institute. It's all paid for by the State to help us develop a plan (a lot of echoing in the background unable to hear or understand) So were going to be focusing on encampments and pacifically were going to be focusing on the encampment behind Home Depot in Los Banos; and the reason were focusing on the encampment in this area is because we're going to be leveraging our partnership that we already have the Community Action Agency and the Non Congregate Shelter that they already have set up that opened this week. We'll be utilizing that, setting goals and the thing is the goals can be very broad or they can be very specific; but we want to make sure we are pushing ourselves to accomplish some real action to move forward. This 100-day challenge kicks off next week with a system design, then after approximately 30 days, there will be a launch workshop and that's when the actual 100-day countdown begins. The State is going to provide ongoing technical assistance through the process as well as once it's all over, they are going to reach back out to us to work with us on how we build sustainability. Their goal is to really help us increase collaboration, our focus, and allowing us to continue these efforts to the future so don't make it just a 100-day and then done. It will be an ongoing challenge for us and it's something that we can take into the future with us and continue working on; tackling these sub-populations, really hopefully end homelessness in Merced County for these different people here. I did want to point out that this is the third round of the 100-day challenge in the state of California. We were reached out to specifically by the State asking to be a part of this and were going to be involved with Fresno, San Bernardino, Santa Cruz, and Sacramento counties. It'll be all 5 jurisdictions working together at the same time. We're going to have our own goals however were going to be able to learn from each other and leverage some of that knowledge that we're developing as we go along. We'll be hoping to find resources through this project for finding home. Community Action Agency has there Los Banos Non Congregated Shelter that just opened, it's at capacity I believe already with 25 rooms which is being utilized for housing participants of this project. Their goal out of there is to find them access to permanent housing, and we'll be trying to coordinate with them focusing more of our resources; as I'm sure your aware a lot of our resources are housed on the Eastside of Merced County and so well be trying to focus a little bit more of our resources out in Los Banos and see what we can do in terms of working with maybe landlords out in that area. Looking at innovative ways to approach them to expand our access to housing. One thing I did want to share is that were meeting next, we're starting this process on the 10<sup>th</sup> we're going to try and set some goals at that point. If anybody has ideas, especially from the CoC board or any of our community partners on what you think some of those goals could be for working with those encampments in Los Banos, please reach out to me.

[john.palm@countyofmerced.com](mailto:john.palm@countyofmerced.com) as this is really going to take a community effort. That kick off is going to involve some of our system design leaders: BHRS, some our partners such as Healthy House, Mission Merced, New Direction, as well as representatives from the assembly member's office, Mayor Serratto, and a few others including the City of Los Banos.

### **Distributive Housing** (Maribel Baron)

As of October 6, 2021:

- 12,962 total beds days
- 193 participants served.
- 37 total beds created
- 6 total live in peer staff members
- 44 participants housed

- 1 participant in permanent supportive housing
- 1 participant in SUD residential
- 20 participants in rentals
- 19 participants in room and board
- 3 participants in a sober living environment.

The Distributive Housing contracts do run at this time through January 31, 2022. The County is working with the Rescue Mission to identify possible funding sources to attempt to extend this contract. Once we have further updates in regards to the funding extension of the project or future housing update, we will bring those updates back

### **CoC Policies and Procedures** (Christy McCammond)

In an attempt to develop policies and procedures and written standards for our Merced City and County CoC we've begun looking at tried and true and well performing CoCs to perhaps adopt some of their policies and procedures and create them in a way that is tailored to Merced City and County. You have two before you today; one is entitled CoC Competition Ranking and Reallocation Procedures and one is entitled Antidiscrimination in Administering and Service Assistance. I'd like to talk about the CoC Competition Ranking and Reallocation Procedure first, this document is in your packet and if you had any trouble accessing that let us know and we could get a copy to you. The policy and procedure specifically defines how our CoC will handle the HUD grants that we receive each year either as a renewal or a new project or new project through reallocation and it informs specifically how we will rank them when we submit our CoC HUD Consolidated Application to HUD. This policy and procedure becomes pretty important because those funds include money for HUD mandated activities such as coordinated data entry services and HMIS (Homeless Management Information Systems) resources. These HUD grants also give us money for projects in Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing therefore these are very important dollars for our community. We have about \$858,000 of those HUD grants in our community currently, with a potential of growing those funds through new projects. We were very proud that we had two new project applications submitted this year. Those were rated and ranked based on performance and thresholds that HUD determines for us and that we find are important to measure in terms of performance. Now HUD mandates that you rank these and present them to HUD in a way that prioritizes your importance upon the different activities. It is wise to use the scoring tool in order to rank those; however, when you have such desperate programs and program objectives, it is very difficult to use one scoring tool kind of that old apples to oranges comparison problem. How do we compare those two projects and rank them in the same way? To solve this problem, because that's felt by everyone in the nation operating a CoC, HUD has allowed that if a CoC creates a policy and procedure you can rank your CES and HMIS for the grant higher in your prioritized listing and that allows you to not always absolutely ensure that those will always be funded with HUD dollars but it's a 99.9% chance that if you put those high on your priority listing they will be funded. And that way we don't as a CoC have to seek other financing for those mandated pieces. So this to our knowledge, we've only been the Collaborative Applicant for a relatively short time, we do not have any policy and procedure in place for this. We also didn't find a policy and procedure for reallocation of funds, because these HUD funds that are going to the CoC and sub granted to our beautiful partners can sometimes be reallocated. There can be lots of reasons for reallocation, it could be there is an entity that is no longer interested in running a program, it could be that an entity does have the resources they once did, and we as a CoC together can decide if we want to keep those funds

and allocate them to a new vendor or even a new project. Again this policy and procedure defines how as a CoC we will handle those ranking CES and HMIS and how we will handle reallocations going forward. In the October meeting, this was presented for vote because our Consolidated Application was coming due next month and there are some significant point values associated with having the ratings and rankings tidied up in this way. It was agreed to vote affirmatively on the adoption of the policy and procedure with the agreement that we will bring it back to the general membership for review and possible amendment or revision. This is simply informational at this point for the general membership to review and get back to us with any review or comment. We can incorporate those edits and take another vote on any revised editions.

The second policy and procedure that we would like to present today for review and comment is the Antidiscrimination in Administering Housing in Service Assistance. The Antidiscrimination policy and procedure is another HUD mandated requirement and we get the extra points in our HUD consolidated application. This of course is part of the Consolidated Application, therefore it was voted upon and adopted last meeting with the same agreement is that we would bring it back to the general membership for review and comment. I will leave both of these out for review and comment for 14 business days. So please submit your review and comment within those 14 business days.

**Steve T.** – I want to thank you for your work on putting these first 2 policies together and as you said if there were previous polices that had been developed under previous leadership of The United Way, we all welcome seeing those. If people have the history somewhere in their offices, I'd appreciate the confidence of nature of these two policies and look forward to action in the future. If anyone would like to review and comment in the next couple weeks, please get those comments to the Collaborative Applicant by mid-November?

**Christy M.** – We figured 14 business days that would land us on the 24<sup>th</sup> so that could be your Thanksgiving gift to all of us. That would give us enough time to get it onto Decembers agenda.

**Steve T.** – Thank you. Everyone please keep in mind the timeline that we need to follow to help out our Collaborative Applicants be prepared for the December meeting and for action.

#### **PIT Methodology** (Christy McCammond)

The Point in Time count is a HUD requirement and this is done annually, as we choose to do it each year. This year we've drawn up a contract with Phillip Schmous to preform that HUD required Point in Time count. There is a methodology per HUD we need to share with the CoC and we might even put that on our Collaborative Applicant website if it's up in time. We can also put it up on the HSA Collaborative Applicants page on our county website. I'd like to briefly go over the statement of work bullet points and that will fulfill our HUD requirement of sharing with you all what the point in time count consist of. Phillip Schmous created a methodology driven by HUD requirements and HUD mandates. He is very aware and very familiar with those HUD requirements and mandate's. The contractor is going to follow and comply with all HUD point in time count regulations and requirements. The count will be conducted this year on, well every year in accordance with HUD instructions, on the streets of Merced County during the hours of 6 am and 8 am on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The count will also be conducted overnight January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in shelters and transitional housing programs. The homeless youth count shall be conducted in accordance with HUD instructions on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 2 pm to 4 pm and that's per HUDs guidelines to do a youth count during school hours. The statement of work goes on the define

what is considered homeless. That person will be considered homeless and thus only counted when he she they meet the following HUD based definition by residing in one of the places described below: in places not meant for human habitation such as cars, parks, sidewalks and abandoned buildings; in an emergency shelter; or in transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from streets or emergency shelter. HUD does not consider the following persons to be homeless, as such the following persons are not to be included in the homeless count: persons who are “doubled up”, persons who are “near homelessness” but considers them to be at risk of homelessness. We will rely on Phil to identify key locations and mapping of sites where persons congregate, and the contractor shall make every effort to minimize duplication. The contractor will assemble all the teams necessary to perform the deliverables of the contract and to carry out the point in time count, and the contractor shall provide training and orientation to all volunteers and other personnel used to perform the deliverables. Contractor is going to use industry standard tools which comply with HUD PIT Regulations and standards. The contractor will collect all HUD required information from each participant and the contractor shall preform marketing measures for the PIT to ensure optimum results. So marketing seems like an incongruent term with this work but Phil Schmous is amazing at this work and taught me what marketing meant in this context. So I have every confidence that Phil will know how to broadcast this in a way we will get the best results possible. The contractor is going to provide gift bags for participants to encourage engagement and participation and will provide any necessary written materials for the PIT count. The contractor will also engage community partners and volunteers, and will perform any necessary surveys as required by HUD. The contractors will perform the youth count for HUDs standards in partnership with Merced County Youth Advocates and Representatives or solely if Youth Advocates and Representatives are not available. Now I have gathered the Youth Advocates and Representatives for a phone call I believe early next week, where we will talk about our strategies, our operations, our partnerships, and our logistics when it comes to the youth count. So more to come there and we thought it was important as your Collaborative Applicant to cover all of your bases and Phil has agreed that he can take on this task if he absolutely has to but we have great partnership with some of the Youth Advocates and Representatives and I’m encouraged and optimistic about the call next week that Phil will have some really strong partnership to perform the youth count. That concludes the PIT count information methodology and the contract deliverables;

**John P.** – I just want to point out 2 differences this year from last year’s point in time count. Last year was an observation count only, as we drove around town in the rain and the dark trying to identify individuals who maybe homeless was very challenging. We didn’t get any direct information on who those individuals were. This year the plan is to go back to the traditional surveys where were asking for a lot of information so that we can get more details on who actually is homeless at this point. The other change that’s happening is and Phil is working on securing this, is a new app to enable a more effective count for us hopefully. It’s called Counting Us and what it does is it allows workers in the field to conduct surveys on their phone or other devices and Phil gets real time updates as to what the count is; so he can monitor if he seen something that’s a little bit off, coordinate with those teams that are out in the field as well to get a fast return on results. He will have backup paper information especially since this is our first time using this app. So everybody is going to get trained on how to us the app as well as the paper surveys. But it should get us more timely data and maybe a little bit easier use of trying to drill down information on who’s experiencing homelessness in Merced County.

**Alternate Format Language** (Christy McCammond)

In looking through this years' consolidated applications and we find many references to making information regarding the CoC available in alternate language formats and so one there are a range of strategies that we can use here to make our information more accessible and also to recruit more members with alternate format language. You may in the future see that were creating materials; our CoC website, we need to make sure its ADA compliant. All of those strategies not only will garner as more favor with HUD, but also allow us to reach out to other folks that may not have the same abilities that we have. You might see that in your policies and procedures, in your written standards, in the website and any other materials that we produce. So if any of you have experience with alternate format strategies, if any of you have experience with ADA compliance the Collaborative Applicants would really like all your brain guts and if you can teach us what you know about alternate format language and ADA compliance we would be very grateful. But in the mean time we will be researching it as well and you might see that pop up in the documentation we provide for you.

#### **Grant Report** (Christy McCammond)

Margaret had a wonderful suggestion and this is something that the Collaborative Applicant has been thinking about as well. Our duty to report to you what funds the CoC has, how their managed, how much they are, who has them, and so in the future as part of our regular occurring rhythm of meetings we will be giving you performance measurement data related to the funds that you rate and rank and distribute as a CoC. We would like to start that conversation by just introducing the most recent grant inventory worksheet. We have the Merced County Community Action Board; they are HMIS provider. The grant number is listed for each grant. You can also see the grant amount as well on this worksheet. Following MCCA is BHRS their project Home Start Project, and that grant is in the amount of \$162,454 for this upcoming grant period. Then we go the second project with BHRS for Project Hope Westside that grant is in the amount of \$186,335. Sierra Saving Grace they have 3 Permanent Supportive Housing Projects that are funded through HUD Consolidated Application and that is in the amount of \$50,587. Followed by the Housing Authority grant for a Permanent Supportive Housing project that they do in cooperation with BHRS and that one is in the amount of \$72,978. Followed by the second Sierra Saving Grace homeless project Permanent Supportive Housing Project #2 that grant amount is \$101,739. We then have the Coordinated Entry Grant and as a CoC we have decided that that grant will be reallocated to the Community Action Agency to perform the CES function of our CoC Permanent Supportive Housing Project that grant amount is \$36,385. Then rounding out the team is the Sierra Saving Grace Permanent Supportive Housing Project #3 and that grant amount is \$165,025. That brings the grand total to \$858,212 that we currently manage as a CoC and again this year we have a CoC bonus application that's around \$57,000 and we have a Domestic Violence what they call a bonus project, I usually don't like to use those 3 words together, but that's the term our HUD uses, and that's at about \$177,000. We may see those additional funds come to our CoC, everybody will cross their fingers and we hope that HUD sees it our way. This concludes the Total Grant Report as it stands now with dollar amounts, project names and entity names.

**Steve T.** – I just want to thank you Christy, you and your team, for putting this together and I know we asked for in our previous meeting so that we could see on one page where the funds were going and this was very helpful.

#### **Regional Plan** (Christy McCammond)

In July, we hosted 3 workshops, with each one being 4 hours with an incredible group of people who included most of if not all of you in the call today. This workshop facilitation included date holders from all different rounds of this endeavor and we invite more feedback now as we have a draft that was created from the infinity diagram that we created with those groups of people over the first workshop. So when we decided we need to update our Regional plan and that our previous 10-year plan was coming up to its expiration date we collected those folks that we thought could help us create a new plan. Once we did a full infinity diagram exercise, which probably took a few, I think we used almost all the first 4 hours on the infinity diagram. We then had an outline for our Regional Plan. From that outline, we fleshed out each section. We also took the states action plan for venting and ending homelessness that was just published within the last nine months and we made sure our Regional Plan was congruent with the states action plan. The state action plan has 5 different action areas and I believe 6 guiding principles and we really did a great job I believe in creating a plan that's in alignment. We feel like that can be beneficial when it comes time for grant applications. That the state may weigh in on. It's also an requirement that we have a Regional Plan and most of our grant applications moving forward. So it was just a great victory to take all of that information for the first workshop, create an outline, and then flesh that out to a fully formed narrative that included references to each of the 5 action areas. So the document you have in front of you now is now formally presented to you the CoC, the Collaborative Applicants created that draft for your review. You will see references to the action plan in forms of icons so that you can quickly and easily cross reference the California plan to our plan. We've also the data super team has been hard at work and has created a CoC wide glossary and those terms in the glossary will be attached to the Regional Plan and that glossary refers to federal and specifically HUD definitions as much as it can. So again we stay in alignment in our terminology, we all know if we don't have shared terminology things can get wonky. So we really want to make sure that when we used a term of ours it was globally known and attached to that federal or state definition when it was available. So I'll get the glossary out to you, actually it already has gone out as final, but I'm going to send the Regional Plan and the glossary to everyone through the Collaborative Applicant email and give you a review and comment period of those 14 business days as well. If you need more time, please let me know. So the asked today is please review this Regional Plan draft that we provided and provide review and comment. We would like to get this adopted by December as well but we want you to have plenty of time to review it, so if you need more time just let us know we can push it a little farther but it will be required in some of our upcoming grant applications. So we'd like to see this on the agenda for vote and adoption in the December meeting. Now the last thing ill mention is that this Regional Plan draft that you have in front of you of course I mentioned the glossary will be attached but I've also created a performance score card so that we can create a road map of our plan and the actions that we've decided as a group we will perform and the progress of those actions. So in most of the sections of the Regional Plan we have committed to performing some type of action and so the score card relates directly to those sections and allows us to follow that action and measure it on a quarterly basis. Those action items will probably be related to the committees that some of you may already be involved in but the action is really in our hope of hopes. Those actions will be performed in your committee work and then reported back on a quarterly basis so that we can record our progress on the score card. So you'll see that score card come to you as well, there are a few finishing touches I wanted to put on it, but I don't have it for you today. But it'll go out in your packet with the Regional Plan draft in front of you today the glossary and of course the score card. Also, our HHAP application will require a Regional Plan therefore we are in a good standing for this application.

**Steve R.** – I just want to say that there was a lot of work that went into this so this no small feat therefore Christy and the team deserve a lot of credit for this. The challenge is, and this something probably as a group, the CoC members as a whole we probably won't realize the absence of our voice until 2023 or 2022 when we find ourselves wondering when or how did this come about, where were people and their voice? I would highly encourage us to find a way to help our CoC members get a chance to discuss this plan in person I think many times for most of us, like when I'm sitting out there when I see salience it doesn't mean agreement it just means confusion and just never understood it. So this is a really important document and a lot of time has gone into it. If we don't have that buy-in from our membership, it will not be a working document and I think I don't know how to best get there, the only thing that comes to mind now is how can we find a way for dialog because people will not be able to read and reflect and provide feedback in that way. I think people in our community are more of the, they need to have it discussed and told almost like a story to them. How can we get there? Because I worry about approving a plan, obviously we can modify and amend it, but I worry that we have missed that opportunity now when we first launch it for real dialog with our community members. Especially people who are not necessarily agency representatives, most of us that were present and put together this plan had those hats on and we had an open chair in the room for the people that were not there, that was good but it doesn't excuse us for going back to get that input. It's not enough to say we had a chair there we need to find a way to get that input for the plan. I'm open to suggestions Christy and the team but I do want to encourage that we actually have a time for formal discussion with our members and not assume that there lack of attention to it just means approval.

**Christy M.** – I couldn't agree more. We had the intension of publishing this far and wide, and especially hoping that we can get the review of people who have experienced homelessness, people with lived experience. The CoC meetings are a great place to engage in all those different sectors. But as you heard in roll call it's tough to get everybody on the line. This cross section that we have on our roll call is a beautiful group of people that would be perfect for what you just said. But if they're not here then we got to meet them where there at. So I'm open to suggestions.

**John C.** – Dr. Roussos, we can distribute it again with like a 30-day open comment period to encourage folks to spread it far and wide. In person we can talk about that as well but would it be, would you approve if we came back and kind of decided on a good course of action, I do like the ideas of distributing it to general membership which is fairly broad maybe having a 30-day open comment period on the plan and find out where we are there. It's not a real rush to adopt this, Christy mentioned round 3 of HHAP is going to require us to submit an action plan to the state, but that is not until June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2022. So the original step Dr. Roussos, would be to distribute this on an open comment period. I think we could take that first step and discuss some additional steps and get really broad input.

**Steve T.** - With what Steve R brought up was, of course there are various audiences for this document, of course the people experiencing homelessness themselves but then also the other agencies here in Merced County that have a stake in solving the issue. So I'm worrying about representatives from our committee taking this out to various city council for example and saying were you aware are you aware that the CoC has a strategic plan, regional plan for identifying and solving the problems around homelessness and are guiding principles are. Do it in a 10-minute presentation share the document the next month or maybe it'll take 2 and then maybe have another all call study session of this group and others that want to join us. But that adds a lot of time and complication to it but you know it's, a lot of work has gone into it and as I've read through it there's a lot of good information that helps me as a 2-



year member now of the CoC, really understand more thoroughly what has been happening what is planned to happen, and then so I wondering about how we best go about sharing this word or this plan?

**Rob LeBard** – We’ve been wanting to put together a team of act of homeless people and if we get a team of 3 or 4 homeless people maybe even pay them a little bit for their time and have them come to a meeting or two like this just to explain and say “hey this is who were trying to help, this is what they think, this is what they would like,” just a suggestion.

**Steve T.** – Well I think the message is always more powerful from the people living the experience.

**Rob LeBard** –Well anyway well continue work to put together our team and if you’re interested in having them join you sometime let me know.

**Steve T.** – Thank you Rob. Great suggestion. Christy anything else from this point forward do we want to say in the next 30-days get back to you and then in December put together a plan to distribute the information.

#### **Informational Report Out** (Maribel Baron)

The two things I want to talk about is the website and I mentioned that earlier, again just a reminder we should have a website to present shortly way before the December meeting and the other thing I want to give a quick update on, we did say that we were going to come back at the November meeting with the 2022 schedule. We decided because the meeting was pretty heavy today we will be sharing that in December so we do have the dates as every first Thursday of the month. We are going to change the structure a little bit in regards to the meetings. Every quarter have a board meeting a general membership and then a training type if meeting. So we will be sharing that information in December, so more to come on 2022

#### **HMIS Informational Report Out** (Luke Brown)

We have officially transferred to Clarity, so we currently there were a few bugs. Not saying we won’t have bugs moving forward but they’ve been mostly worked out. We’ve really have the agencies going in and doing some work to kind of make sure that all the clients that are actively working with are going to be pulled into our coordinated entry system, and so far so good. We’ll see how it goes moving forward.

#### **Grantee/Committee Reports** (Maribel Baron)

No comments on reports

**Lloyd P.** –I just wanted to share a success story. Two weeks ago I meet with a men’s group on a Wednesday night at Gateway Church and a gentleman comes in and sits down and is in our group. We ask every new person to kind of share a little bit of their story if they want and he said that he was in prison and released was homeless ended up at the B Street Shelter. Was there about 6 weeks and actually is now housed and has a job. So I just wanted to give a shout out to Jennifer Karr and her team about how it just really made me feel good to be a part of our group and have him come in and share that story so I just wanted to give congratulations to where its deserved.

**Steve T.** – Well thank you for sharing that. That makes us feel good about what is going on.

**Lee G**-Journey for Justice will honor the, on December 10<sup>th</sup>, the day of Human Rights and will focus on housing December 10<sup>th</sup> and were trying to put together a program. We've asked a few people to come it'll be on Zoom December 10<sup>th</sup> if you can't make it think about the day of Human Rights.

**Margaret Simmons** - Sierra Saving Grace is starting a project we call the Shoe Shoe Train, were collecting shoes, used shoes. you can drop them off at our Sierra Saving Grace's office and there are several other places will be distributing them through a lot of different channels through the Love Inc., and various other groups around. If you would like to have shoes or have shoes to donate, please let us know.

**Luke Brown** – One last thing, we open up a new shelter in Los Banos, and were in need of pet supplies. So if folks could gather pet supplies and please if you have it I can come by and pick it up. Coordinate with me that would be incredibly helpful. So that's all.

**Steve T.** –If no further items to we will adjourn the meeting at 12:28 pm.

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA**

**December 2, 2021 | 11:00am-12:30pm | Blue Jeans/Conference Call**  
1.408.419.1715 Meeting ID: 385 305 208; <https://bluejeans.com/385305208>

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**Call to Order**

**Matt Serratto**

**Roll Call**

**Collaborative Applicant**

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**Notice to Public**

**Collaborative Applicant**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-08-21, a local legislative body or state body is authorized to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe. All votes for this meeting will be taken via roll call.

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**Public Comment**

**Matt Serratto**

At this time, any person may comment on any item not on the agenda. Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If action is required, it will be referred to the CoC board and placed on a future agenda. With the aim of allowing all interested parties an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. To comment on an item on the agenda please wait until the item is read for consideration. Please state your name for the record.

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**Matt Serratto**

- u. Approval of Agenda
- v. Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2021 CoC Board Meeting

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**Community Projects**

- Operation Safe Harbor
- Housing for the Harvest
- Merced Navigation Center
- Emergency Housing Vouchers
- Los Banos Non-Congregate Shelter

**Maribel Baron  
Luke Brown  
Jennifer Carr  
Tracy Jackson  
Luke Brown**

**Chair Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

- Regional Planning Update
- City of Merced Update

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**Action Items**

**Matt Serratto**

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**Board Information & Possible New Action Items**

**Collaborative Applicant**

- Homeless Court Presentation
- Clarity Demonstration
- 2022 CoC Meetings
- Cost of Homelessness

**Judge Paul Lo**  
**Luke Brown**  
**Christy McCammond**  
**Christy McCammond**

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**Reports**

**Collaborative Applicant**

- t. CA Informational Report Out
  - Policies and Procedures
  - Regional Plan Presentation
  - CoC Charter Review
- u. Prioritization Update
- v. Grantee and Committee Reports

**Christy McCammond**  
  
**Shelby Molina**  
**Committee Chair**

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**CoC General Membership Comments**

**Matt Serratto**

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**Adjournment:**

**MERCED CITY AND COUNTY CoC  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 2, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

- Steve Roussos
- Jennifer Mockus
- Margaret Simmons
- Matt Serratto
- Steve Tietjen

**Collaborative Applicant Staff in Attendance:**

- John Palm Iris Gunther-Battles Christy McCammond
- John Ceccoli Maribel Baron

**General Members in Attendance:**

Aspirenet Transitional Housing Program  
Central Valley Opportunity Fund  
CA Central Valley Journey for Justice  
Dignity Health  
Healthy House  
Merced County Adult & Aging Services  
Merced County Board of Supervisors  
Merced County Behavioral Health and & Recovery  
Merced County Community Action Agency  
Merced County District Attorney’s Office  
Merced County Human Services Agency  
CCLS

**Meeting Called to Order:** @11:05 am

**Board Quorum:** No

**Notice to Public:** Read by CoC Chair Matt Serratto

**Public Comment:** Read by CoC Chair Matt Serratto

**Lee G.** – December 10<sup>th</sup> is the 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary to the Declaration of Human Rights. Journey for Justice will be holding a zoom meeting and to highlight human rights includes having a home. Thank you.

**Consent Agenda Items**

- q. Approval of Agenda
- r. Approval of Minutes from November 2021 - No quorum available, this will be brought back at next meeting for motion.

**Operation Safe Harbor** (Maribel B.)

The program is still currently active. We provide assistance to individuals that are homeless and either COVID positive or under the investigation to quarantine at Merced Inn & Suites. Currently we have had 89 individuals YTD. We have 1 active at the moment. We did have a rise over the last two months however that has begun to slow down a little bit. We have accepted some donation in regards to hygiene items and some socks that we are giving to be giving to the participants in the program. Reminder that the referrals need to come from either a medical provider or public health. We have been working with public health on the referrals if needed. If you are encountering anybody out in the field who is COVID positive and homeless, please contact the Collaborative Applicant and we can assist work with public health to obtain the referral for you.

**No comments**

### **Housing for the Harvest** (John C)

**John C.** – For November 2021, 7 households served through Housing for the Harvest. Housing for the Harvest is a service for food manufacturing, or agriculture workers who are COVID positive or under investigation. They get a stipend for encouragement to stay home in order to lessen the possibility of transmission as well as the delivery of food items and PPE information in regards to COVID and how to lessen transmission. Currently that program is set to expire at the end of December. The state did recently did provide an option to extend it so were exploring that and we will provide further update to the CoC board at the next meeting.

### **Navigation Center** (Christy McCammond)

We have 45 participants in the Navigation Center, 2 dogs, and 21 beds available. The Navigation Center is officially off COVID lockdown. We've seen a flat line and sometimes a decrease in the bed days and the occupancy for the Navigation Center because they have been battling COVID cases and were officially put on a lockdown status by Public Health. We should see our numbers begin to increase.

**John C.** – Navigation Center went on lockdown on October 25<sup>th</sup> when we had a census of 60 of 66 beds, so we were near capacity. Since October 25<sup>th</sup> until yesterday when we were officially removed from COVID lockdown, we had a low of 29 on our census. When the Navigation Center goes on COVID lockdown, we have to restrict movement, take additional precaution, and a lot of folks will self-term. So were excited that we are off COVID lockdown and we're already seeing the census pick up dramatically.

### **Emergency Housing Vouchers** (Shelby Molina)

**Shelby M.** – As of now, 20 people have vouchers in hand and 2 people have move in dates utilizing the vouchers. The rest are still being reviewed by the eligibility specialist.

### **Los Banos Non-Congruent Shelter** (Shelby Molina)

**Shelby M.** - Los Banos is currently full. The maximum capacity is 25 rooms however they do have couples staying together in each unit so as of right now they have 33 individuals being served. Approximately half of them have been referred over to housing services through CES.

### **Chair Comments** (Matt Serratto)

In terms of a City update and a local update, we've had some really good moves. I am not able to share more information yet. The city council is committing millions of dollars towards affordable units; 20 plus unit project, potentially a container home project at R and Childs, and another home key style project at or near the old Pinecone Inn at 13<sup>th</sup> by Home Depot. The committed funding is around roughly \$5,000,000 to fund approximately 500 – 600 affordable units and some of those dedicated towards homeless housing. I think at the city level, the policy level, we have to do a good job of providing good dedicated homeless units that are affordable to build and still a while for all that to come to fruition with buildings to get built. We are seeing the Childs corner apartments on the corner of Childs and B, those should be online within a few months and in addition to that the Rescue Mission project at Cone is getting close, hopefully January. A lot of big developments and a lot more projects coming.

### **Homeless Court** (Judge Paul Lo)

Point of today's presentation is to brief the community based organizations who are involved in homeless services about homeless court program and to enlist your help. The success of the program is really going

to depend everyone involved. The program has been running for about 6-9 months and we have had very few clients. The homeless court program in Merced is patterned after the San Diego program. We took their blueprint essentially, and adopted it for Merced County. The critical player to the program are the community based organizations that work with the homeless population as you know who they are, you know their legal issues, and you know the help they need.

Essentially the way the court gets involved is after they have done all the programs through organizations and you become aware they have some misdemeanors, infractions or fines and see that those things might be impediments to them for getting their driver's licenses, housing, unable to pay court fines, fees, and/or warrants outstanding, we can assist them through the homeless court. We can assist with clearing the legal hurdles for them so they can do what they need to do to get back on their feet, find a job, get a license, and obtain housing. At this time, the concern the court has is were not sure how much of the word has gone out to those working with the homeless population. The program success depends on whether clients are being referred to us. Reyna Espinoza, our navigator would be the person who accepts the referrals. She will present the flow chart and how the program works

**Reyna E.** – I represent Merced County Workforce Development Board, which is also Workforce and Investment and we subcontract services through Worknet and one of them is this particular program that works in connection with the court. The referral agency has typically been Behavioral Health however whichever any organization/agency can refer. You'll have to complete what is called a Homeless Court Packet, or what we refer to as a HCP packet. That then goes electronically to our court navigator who is Julie Winebrinner. She gathers all the information in the packet and will then meet with the participant and work through the packet. What can happen is either at the same meeting we will do what is called an initial assessment. We will discuss other items with the client as we also have funding that we can assist them with on certain topics. Depending on where the particular participant is at regarding being job ready or not, the client might be assigned a level of what is called job readiness. This is to scale out what level of activity their ready to be in. Then the court navigator will create a program plan for the client to follow. After that, the resident receives and reviews the program plan with the coordinator and then they star doing some job readiness activities. Some might need to do things like community service to clear some of their fines or warrants. We assist them with that whole process until completion. The navigator assists the resident in writing a court letter which will be taken up to court to attempt to have their fines reduced and off their records which is in front of Judge Lo. Depending on what happens at court, typically the outcome is positive for the participant, we continue with job training, job placement support, employment, and close out program. This is the entire process and now that organizations have an understanding of how the whole process works, hopefully we can start to get some more referrals. The end goal is to assist the homeless population with getting a lot of their records cleared if possible. Materials will be sent to the Collaborative Applicant to have sent out to the organizations for their records. For any referrals, you can send to Julie, her email address is [courtnavigator@equiss.com](mailto:courtnavigator@equiss.com).

**Christy M** – Do we have this model for Say Mental Health Court or Alcohol and Drug Court as well, is this a model used for those rounds?

**Judge Lo** – I also run Mental Health Court and Drug Treatment Court for the adults and those are a little bit different. This model is really geared toward infractions and misdemeanor cases for drug and mental health services. These collaborative cores are a lot more intensive they are more geared toward the felony cases and so they usually start instead of from a referring organization they'll start with the person in court having a felony case that's before the court or that's on felony probation and so it's not so much and then they work with county mental health and behavioral health services for those. But we do have those programs.



**Christy M.** – What is the marketing on this project. We can post this information to our CoC website. Is there a way that we can share this beyond the group here?

**Judge Lo** – That’s great. We welcome your input and welcome your help. We do have a working committee that had put the program together and that committee is disbanded but now we also have an ongoing committee and we meet on a monthly basis to make sure we’re doing things right. We continue to tweak the program and so we’d love to have your participation in that. Your right I think getting the word out the marketing part is so critical to make sure everybody knows.

**Gloria S.** – I have another question judge. Has this information or can it be available at the New Direction hub?

**Shelby M.** – John Palm shared this information at the CES meeting last week and presented on the homeless courts to all the emergency shelter workers including New Direction and some the housing agencies that are a part of the CES flow.

**Reyna E.** – Julie Winebrinner is at New Direction three times a week.

#### **Clarity Demonstration** (Shelby Molina)

Presentation provided by Shelby Molina on how to operate in Clarity. If you would like to view the presentation, contact the Collaborative Applicant. All Clarity questions should be sent to Shelby Molina.

#### **2022 Line Up** (Maribel Baron)

We are presenting the 2022 line up now that we are at the end of the year. We have had some discussions over the last few meeting in regards to going back to in person or leaving the hybrid video and in person. With the numbers of COVID positives rising and some of the comments we have received, for time being we are going to leave the meetings to video conferencing and revisit the topic of a hybrid meeting in the future. In 2022, we would like to incorporate some training for next year to include HUD requirement that states that the CoC needs to have annual training. In 2022, we scheduled 9 meetings and 3 trainings. We can discuss later if we need to adjust and of the scheduled trainings.

#### **Cost of Homelessness Project** (Christy McCammond)

In July 2021, we held our workshops to create our regional plan and discussed the need for data and evidence based practices. We spoke about creating a data project to determine the cost if homelessness in Merced County. Luke Brown and I determined the purpose and scope of that data project and actually defined some variables that we might look at in that calculation. John Ceccoli recommended that we seek out help from UC Merced and Dr. Roussos. Luke Brown and I met with the UC and they have agreed to take on the project and assign some graduate students. This will allow us to have sort of a data base line about not only the quantitative data; how much are we spending, how many are we servicing; it really match the qualitative data and then compare other programs, endeavors, projects to what we’re doing now. It can be a great educational piece for our communities about how much is devoted and what out comes are associated with the money spent. We are really hoping to have a per person per number that we can then begin using to compare and help us inform our decision. Timeline is probably late spring early summer and actions going forward would be a few meetings with the folks at UC Merced and folks from CoC to describe the project and to go over the purpose of scope.

#### **CA Informational Report Out** (Christy McCammond)

Regarding the policy and procedures that were provided in November, the racial equity and anti-harassment policy as well as the rating and ranking and reallocation policy and procedure was left open for review and comment. We have not received any review and comment therefore we want to move forward with publishing those policies as is and if any time there is some will to amend or revise those we can absolutely revisit. We would like to have a small committee that reviews these policies at some regular intervals to ensure they are current, relevant and useful on an ongoing basis.

### **Regional Plan** (Christy McCammond)

Last meeting, we spoke about really publishing or circulating this Regional Plan to a wider audience to capturing stake holder opinion, review, and comment. We talked about the different venues or forums which we could share it. I'm happy to report I presented to the Lions Club, last week and I started that presentation with some very basic knowledge. I went over terms, first of all gave them kind of a glossary and I explained concepts that we live with in our world such as housing first, low barrier, harm reduction, just getting the community use to these terms so that we can start speaking the same language with folks. I went over the causes of homelessness and I also went over our current initiatives here in Merced County such as our D Street, B Street, distributive housing, the new affordable housing on Childs and B. I went over HUD structure and HUD requirements just in a nut shell and at a very high level. I also went over the major elements of our CoC system, some those being HUD requirements, of course, things like CES, HMIS, CoC, Collaborative Applicant, getting the public use to those terms. And I shared with them our Regional Plan, and invited feedback. So getting that kick started after our meeting, last meeting. Just wondering did anybody else get to sort of broadcast that Regional Plan, do we have a plan going forward about how we want to get it out there so we can now really convert this into final and add it to our CoC library and of course we will use that in our future grant applications. Open to information.

**Steve R.** – Christy, I know I have not but I'm wondering if there's a way, like who on the CoC membership has the closest most direct relationship with people who are experiencing homelessness that could kind of get walked through this and I obviously I see Gloria on the line there might be some other folks around from Sierra Saving Grace but I'm just thinking who can give us that perspective that you know, I'm not sure if its entirely there it might be but just that person who is actually in the community that has that experience. Or maybe someone from the Rescue Mission or I'm just sort of drawing at straws.

**Gloria S.** – Rob LeBard offered to put together a group of people with lived experience. I think it's a really fantastic idea to really get the good and the bad and the ugly from to see if we are aiming in the right direction. I think we do need to hear from people that are affected by this awful condition called homelessness. In regards to distributive housing, could you explain what that is. I don't understand what their list of numbers are.

**Christy M.** – The definition of distributive housing is very similar to the Navigation Center and we often referred to as mini Navigation Centers. These distributive houses are located all throughout Merced County and they house people who are homeless and its again a low barrier harm reduction model of emergency shelter. At the moment we have 6 distributive houses and they house right now anywhere from 30-44 participants. They also provide case management service enriched environments which is to say a case manager will work on document ready, housing ready, and connecting to services such as Cal fresh, CalWORKs, Medical, access to health care. Really they are a mini Navigation Center and they're very helpful because if there are folks who don't respond to services in a congregate shelter environment we have the option of placing them in a distributive housing model where we might have more success with case management and services being delivered to the participant.

### **The Charter Review** (Christy McCammond)

Our charter was revised last in January 2019 and there are a few items that were out of compliance on and that need our attention. We are going to look to HUD requirements as they relate to the governors' charter to make sure that we have no less but maybe no more than what is required at this point. To sort of apply a lean type of practice it to make it easier administratively and easier for all of you to keep up with. If you could please review the governors charter and on our end of the Collaborative Applicant is going to be soring this up to what HUD requires and hopefully streamline the charter and present some recommendations to you.

**Maribel B.** - The charter should be reviewed annually so we are a little out of compliant on that. We are looking to revise the charter for 2022 and just at a quick glance we know that we are out of compliance on quite a few items and in looking at these we'd like to see if we can streamline the charter make it just a little bit easier in what is required and necessary.

### **Prioritization Update** (Shelby Molina)

As of November, aged between 50-64 we have 145, over the age 65 we have 46. Youth which is going to be between the ages of 18-24 we have 12. 21 veterans, 126 women, and those who marked yes of mental health and behavioral health issues 130. We have grand total of 372 individual clients and 236 families which is a grand total of 608 on our master list of homeless individuals within Merced County. For referral progress, for each month this how many referrals have been made since we began the last week of June which was June 23<sup>rd</sup>. For the month of November, we referred out 39 clients off of the list. Since June 23<sup>rd</sup> we've made a grand total of 208 referrals made to housing agencies. For clients housed, for the month of November we've housed 8 clients and since June we housed a total of 44 clients off of the master list.

### **Grantee/Committee Reports** (Maribel Baron)

Those have been provided in the meeting packet.

**Gloria S.** – I have a question: Have any committees been meeting? I know I haven't been called to a committee meeting in about going on 2 years.

**Maribel B.** – The CES is meeting but we haven't received any other reports for other committees. Part of the review of the charter is the committees and reaching out to find out status of them. Hopefully we'll have more info on committee reports and committees with the charter review.

**Christy M.** – I'd like to offer if there's anything the Collaborative Applicant can in terms of facilitation and organization we would be happy to help you. If you're a committee in need of help reach out and perhaps we can have some facilitation or project management pools that can help you operate as a committee with more efficiency and joy.

### **General Membership Comments**

**Sargeez T.** – I just have a quick question I was wondering if there has been any discussions city or county for any warming shelter, or any warming shelters to be opened up during this time. I know usually you open up around December and go through March. I just wanted to see if there was any information about that we could possibly share with our clients?

**Matt S.** – I had discussions with Bruce Metcalf, just kind of informally about some of the things I can reach out to him, the Rescue Mission. Potentially his point was that they have the Navigation Center they

have other places now which can serve as warming centers. Which we have sort of pre-built already and there's no need to kind of reinvent the wheel and do another one. That was his point and I don't know if anybody else has anything to add. Sargeez I would reach out to Bruce and check with him typically the Rescue Mission does it but he thought it was a good idea to host it on already existing properties, which serves as the warming center and then save the funding for something better which could be more effective.

**Sargeez T.** – Yea I believe they are not doing it this year through the Mission, but the concern with that is there are a lot of individuals who have pets who will not be able to get in and there's other factors of individuals who still don't want to be in that setting but being overnight having just a safe place to sleep I think was the biggest concern because you know even the entry process to the Navigation Center there's a lot of individuals who can't be won't be eligible due to other reasons. So just for the population who may not have other options or who are not willing to be in that type of setting for a long period of time.

**Gloria S.** – I just wanted to share that I was on a zoom from people at the national level and it was regarding criminalization laws that have been placed. State of California has a bunch of laws ticketing people for sitting, laying down, for camping for this for that for that. And I'm really you know concerned about that I mean that it seems kind of interesting that homeless court would deal with some of those ticketing but I think if could put a stop at the root of the problem you know if some of the outreach that happening actually connects people to the services that are available. I still think there's a problem with having knowledge of where things are at. I mean you know I don't think that people are coming from other places or from here but I also don't want to see an increase of ordinances of criminalized for poor people because you can't arrest your way out of homelessness. I just want to share that.

**Matt S.** – In January 27<sup>th</sup> if anybody has the opportunity, Phil Schmauss is coordinating the Homeless Count. If anybody has the opportunity to volunteer or care to be involved it's a really good thing to be involved in and then we, John and I, are actually going to cook at the D Street Shelter on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Me and some members of his family and other friends did it on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November and were going to do it again also on the January 17<sup>th</sup> so. Also if anybody has a chance to either at the navigation Center, D Street Shelter I found that very rewarding to volunteer to cook dinner one night too so I would encourage people to sign up for both of those, if they can. Alright with that were probably adjourn about 30 seconds early. Unless anybody anything else to say? Alright thank you everyone for your attention and involvement today.