



Merced City and County Continuum of Care General Membership Meeting

Date: May 2, 2024
Times: 11:00am – 12:30pm
Location: Virtual Conference via Microsoft Teams
 Phone Number: 1 (323) 676-6251
 Meeting ID: 260 169 058 728
This meeting will be recorded

AGENDA

- | | |
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| I. Call to Order | Matthew Serratto |
| II. Roll Call | Collaborative Applicant |
| III. Notice to Public
At least 48 hours prior to each regular Board/General membership meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the Merced CoC website at www.mercedcoc.org . | Collaborative Applicant |
| IV. Public Comment
Matters under the jurisdiction of the CoC and not on this posted agenda may be addressed by the general public at this time. The CoC governance charter prohibits the CoC from taking any action on a matter that is not on the posted agenda unless it is determined to be an emergency by the CoC. Any member of the public wishing to address the CoC during the “Public Comment” period is permitted to be heard once for up to three minutes, per person. Please state your name for the record. | Matthew Serratto |
| V. Consent Agenda Items
A. Approval of Agenda
B. Approval of Minutes: April 4, 2024 | Matthew Serratto |
| VI. Community Projects
A. Merced Navigation Center
B. Distributive Housing/Unincorporated Housing
C. Homeless Court
D. Emergency Housing Vouchers
E. Housing Developments
F. 1213 V St. Project | Jennifer Carr
David Carr
David Carr
Jesenia Aguilar
John Ceccoli
Rebecca Peter |
| VII. Chair Comments | Matthew Serratto |
| VIII. Action Items | Collaborative Applicant |
| IX. Board Information & Possible New Action Items | Collaborative Applicant |
| X. Collaborative Applicant Report Out
A. New Program Manager | Collaborative Applicant |
| XI. CoC Committees Report Out – New Information
A. HMIS
B. CES | Christy McCammond /
Iris Gunther-Battles
Christy McCammond/
Iris Gunther-Battles |

C. Youth

Lucia Tejeda / Jacqueline
Villicana

D. Health

Maria Nava / Linda Dash

E. Faith

Lee Greenawalt /
Margaret Simmons

F. Outreach

Sargeez Teimoorshahi

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

G. Planning and Development

H. Lived Experience

XII. CoC General Membership comments

Matthew Serratto

XIII. Adjournment

Next meeting: June 6, 2024 11:00am – 12:30pm, Microsoft Teams

Matthew Serratto



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MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The General Membership meeting of the Merced City and County Continuum of Care (CoC) was called to order at 11:04am on April 4, 2024, via Microsoft Teams by Matt Serratto.

II. Roll Call

Continuum of Care Board Members in Attendance: (6/10) Quorum Achieved

Margaret Simmons
Matthew Serrato

Ray Reyna
Kristynn Sullivan

Stephen Hammond
Steve Tietjen

Continuum of Care Members in Attendance: (20/30 Members – Quorum Achieved)

1. ACE Overcomers
2. Aspiranet
3. Central California Alliance for Health
4. City of Los Banos
5. Healthy House Within a Match Coalition
6. Human Services Agency (HSA)
7. Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS)
8. Merced County Community Action Agency
9. Merced County Office of Education (MCOE)
10. Department of Public Health (PH)
11. Mission Merced Incorporated (MMI)
12. Project Sentinel
13. Resources for Independence - Central Valley
14. The Salvation Army
15. Second Chance for Women and Children Inc
16. Sierra Saving Grace (SSG)
17. The Dr. Jennifer Jones Foundation
18. Turning Point
19. Valley Crisis Center
20. Westcare- San Joaquin Valley Veterans

Non-Member Community Organizations in Attendance:

- 1 Candice (Community Upholdings)
- 2 Rebecca Peter (Community Upholdings)

III. Notice to Public- Read by the Collaborative Applicant

IV. Public Comment

1. Christy informed the following:
 - a. The City of Los Banos will be hosting an outreach event in the encampment by the police station in Los Banos on Friday from 9:00am-11:30am. This outreach is a cooperative effort of providers in the Los Banos area from BHRS, City of Los Banos, New Directions, Rescue Mission. They will be directly in the encampment offering basic package of vital documents requisitions connections to Medical, CalFresh and BHRS.

- b. The City of Los Banos is still awaiting decision from the Encampment Resolution Fund program, a \$12 million ask for a 51-bedroom modular tiny homes of permanent supportive housing within Los Banos. The state was to get back to them by March 30th, so far, no response.
 - c. Intending to apply for permanent local housing allocation, competitive portion. CoC wrote a support letter, smaller project of \$15 million for 15 one-bedroom modular permanent supportive housing and units.
 2. Mandeep Pooni informed the team that the Central Legal Services has been closed through the pandemic. The office will re-open to the public on April 8, 2024. They can assist with housing concerns and eviction defense.
 3. Sargeez brought to CoC's attention a few board members that have not been present this year. Asked if it can be reviewed if others would be willing to present the CoC and support us.

V. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of April 2024 Agenda and March 7, 2024 Minutes
Motion from Stephen Hammond, second from Chief Reyna. The motion passed unanimously at 11:17am.

VI. Community Projects

- A. Merced Navigation Center
 1. Jennifer Carr reported they have served 840 people and housed 91. They are currently at full capacity of 76 participants and 15 dogs.
- B. Housing Voucher Set-Aside
 1. Jesenia Aguilar reported 59 clients housed, 8 clients currently with vouchers in hand searching for unit, and 1 application in agency.
 2. John Ceccoli reported meeting with the Housing Authority. Reviewed 315, which included, 50 for Housing Support Program, 150 for coordinated entry system, 68 for emergency housing vouchers, 10 for adult protective services, 29 for Children's Services Branch, 123 from HUD. There are 39 vacant from the 315 reviewed. John spotlighted The Community Action Agency supports in the coordinated entry system. The Housing Authority are the number one rental assistance provider for the Continuum of Care.
- C. Distributive Housing/Unincorporated Housing
 1. David Carr reported in the distributive housing, they have served 387 people and housed 65 people to date. For the unincorporated areas, they served 34 people and housed 5 people.
- D. Homeless Court
 1. David Carr reported 65 people graduated.
 2. David Carr reported for Bridge Housing, they currently have 23 people in beds, with 2 open. In the city of Los Banos, they have 20 people in beds with no beds open, for the unincorporated area, they have 12 people with beds and 6 beds open. They discussed with team to do an outreach event in Winton to fill the 6 beds.

E. Housing Developments

John Ceccoli reported he spoke to the developer on Child's & R street, that's 20 units using a modular construction. They're awaiting approval from HUD to start placing units. He is hopeful this will occur this month, at least on the site development, that's 20 units for veterans experiencing homelessness. They have had 3 Home Key Applications for 3.0. Housing and Community Development reached out about a 58-unit proposal next to BHRS utilizing modular homes. A lot of support includes the Housing Authority, Managed Care Plan, Merced County BHRS, HSA, Central Valley Opportunity Fund, and the Continuum of Care. The Sheltering System working with the managed care plan, the Central California Alliance on aligning some of their emergency shelters with some of the CalAim Enhanced Care Management community supports, whether that is short term, post hospitalization, where they're trying to figure out how they can come alongside the managed care plan. The system was developed with one-time funding, they are trying to maintain this as a one time. John Ceccoli added he visited tiny home community in Modesto, a total of 8 homes between 400-800 square feet. The homes are built in factories and the labor is through an agreement with the California Department of Corrections, as a workforce development. Exploring opportunities potential for starter homes in Merced County. The median income in Merced is about \$65,000 annually. About 46% of the households are renter households, is there an opportunity for us to come together and turn the single-family residence model and give the community more opportunities.

F. 1213 V St. Project

1. Rebecca Peter reported they are at 53 units full, the 41 are still available through BHRS. They have clients identified and working to prepare to get them to move in. First resident meeting tomorrow, the clients get to talk about the program, give back insight and ideas of what they would like to see happening there. What kind of life skills and support would they like to see. Clients will meet property management and service providers. Merced Community Action has been active and introducing themselves as clients move in.
2. Sargeez raised a question that of the 53 housed, has there been any turnover or evictions since the start of this program?
 - A. Rebecca responded No, they do have a tenant looking for another place due to legal and safety concerns.
3. Christy raised a question, for people giving money orders and checks what is the payee that should be listed?
 - A. Rebecca stated money orders are to be made to 1213 V Street.
4. Iris Gunther-Battles reported all of the documentation needed between the 1213 project and BHRS has been provided to have the contract move forward, it should be going to the board on the 23rd and they will be working with the property management for them to be able to go in and do some of the pre-inspections for all the units to make sure that they are at standards that are required. There will be a walkthrough when tenants are moved. Possibly ready in mid-May, pending electrical work.
5. John Ceccoli reported previously met with the Housing Authority and talked about their voucher award, questioned if there is any information on award or timeline?
 - A. Candice responded that they recently awarded 84 project-based vouchers to 1213. She stated it's a long-term subsidy and they are expecting implementation of the vouchers to be available to the residents that are there and any incoming residents within the next 18 to 24 months.
6. Mayor Serrato asked a question if onsite security fell off and if there is an update.
 - A. Rebecca Peters stated there is no onsite security, there is an increase in cameras. They are not able to have 24-hour onsite security, they are hopeful to get onsite security once at full capacity, for nights and weekends. They are

advising clients to call 911 if there are any incidents. They do have emergencies after hours, between the service providers and property management, they are trying to handle those issues and anything beyond residents are asked to call law enforcement. Services and providers are working with the residents to identify what is an emergency and what constitutes calling law enforcement. Some emergencies are not safe for safety providers to intervene.

- B. With the 41 BHRS units coming relatively soon, they will be at capacity soon. The idea with the BHRS units is that they won't necessarily be permanent placements, more of a long-term temporary placement. Per Iris, the funding that they have is behavioral health bridge housing dollars, which is a transitional housing type model where they assist with rental assistance, services, security deposits and application fees. This is a temporary solution; the major goal is to assist the clients in finding permanent housing options. With the announcement of the project-based vouchers coming on site to the property, they are hoping the clients will be able to apply for and get these so that funding would be switched to somewhere else potentially. Since these would then have permanent subsidies to these units, they would have to start looking to switch and find different units for their transitional homes.

VII. Chair Comments - None

VIII. Action Items

A. Board Vote

1. 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Report Approval

Motion by Steve Tietjen and second by Stephen Hammond. The motion passed unanimously at 11:47 am.

- A. Merced County PIT was conducted on Thursday, January 24, 2024. During the PIT count, 830 individuals experiencing homelessness were counted. 428 were unsheltered and residing in places not meant for human habitation and 402 were defined as sheltered residing either transitional or emergency shelter. This count represents an increase of 5.9% or 46 individuals experiencing homeless from the previously recorded 2023 Point in Time Count. The 2023 Point in Time Count reported 784 individuals experiencing homelessness. This key highlights from the 2024 Point in Time Count are that the number of sheltered adults, children and families increased by 2% from 394 in 2023 to 402 in 2024. The number of children experiencing homelessness decreased by 27% from 77 in 2023 to 21 in 2024. The recommended action is to approve the 2024 Point in Time Count report and authorize the Collaborative Applicant Administrative Entity to submit this data to HUD no later than April 30, 2024.
- B. Steve Tietjen asked if there is any information that would lead us to any conclusions around the positive drop in youth homelessness?
 - a. John Ceccoli responded and stated that's a challenge with the Point in Time Count, they had 100-day challenge targeting children. This year, they had a reduction in their funding and had that limit some of their services. They may have lost track. There was one dependent age child that was identified unsheltered. Although, they had a reduction, they didn't see an increase in unsheltered children. They are focused if there's an uptick in unsheltered, that's going to become a challenge, so far haven't seen that yet.

2. Encampment Resolution Funding -Round 3

Motion by Steve Tietjen and second by Stephen Hammond. The motion passed unanimously at 11:50 am

- A. Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) is a four-year grant program, which includes 3 rounds of funding to provide grants to local jurisdictions and continuums of care to resolve the experiences of unsheltered homelessness for people residing in encampments.

B. CoC General Membership Applications – General Membership Vote

1. Removal of General Member: Termination in accordance with the Merced CoC Governance Charter Section 4.6.

Motion by Merced County Department of Behavioral Health & Recovery Services and second by City of Los Banos. The motion passed unanimously at 11:53 am.

- A. Termination of membership for cause may be turned upon a 2/3 vote of the CoC general membership during any scheduled meeting. The Sweet Ethics Residential Association (SERA) submitted their resignation of membership via email to the Merced CoC on January 29, 2024. The recommended action is to remove SERA from the CoC general membership.

IX. Board Information & Possible New Action Items

A. HHAP 5 Submission Updates

Collaborative Applicant (CA) reported HHAP 5 application was submitted to Cal ICH as of March 20, 2024. The state deadline to announce the award is June 30, 2024.

B. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

The CA/AE is preparing to apply for a CDBG funding under the City of Merced.. This funding to the Merced CoC has been funded annually since 2019 for CoC planning activities in the amount of \$38, 000.

X. Reports – CA Information Report Out

A. April Contracts Monitoring

The CA/AE is preparing to conduct monitoring activities for 8 vendors within our jurisdiction. Those appointments have been set up throughout the month of April and they have notified all vendors in question of the intent to come out and monitor those activities.

XI. CoC Committees Report Out – New Information

A. HMIS

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Coordinated Entry System (CES) Committee met at least once each since the last meeting. The number one thing that is gratitude for Merced County Community Action Agency (MCCAA) decision to use the contractor, Community Technology Alliance (CTA) Group. All the recommendations from the HMIS Committee were met and exceeded by MCCAA as the HMIS lead through their great decision to partner with CTA at the new HMIS standards were digested and incorporated into what they do.

B. CES

The CES Committee will meet in the next 30 days, in person at BHRS. The CES Committee is having an in-person tabletop to come up with an access model plan. Learned MCCAA created one sometime ago, a document they can build upon. Hope to have a draft to the

CoC in the next couple of months. The CES Committee and the Special Work Group Committee have gotten approval from the CES lead MCCA for the Alternative Assessment and Companion Guide/Training Guide. Hoping to have this to the CoC Board and membership for review in the next 30-45 days. This would keep them from using VI-SPDAT, which is being discontinued to this alternate assessment. Held a meeting with Sargeez, helping policies and procedures for more than just the CES so that they can be a more collaborative and a better resource for the entire CoC and vendors. This will be an ongoing PMP meeting between Chrisy, Sargeez & Iris.

C. Youth

The committee did not meet last month. They are scheduled to meet again on April 26th via zoom from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. They are still looking to fill the role of secretary.

D. Health

The committee met on April 2nd in person at Public Health. There were three participants, one of the three was a new member, Mark Henry with legacy project. Discussed HIV and other STI's and prevention resources. They provided resources to those that were present that can be distributed. Emailed resources to those who were not able to attend. The resources included topics such as what you need to know about STIs and HIV fact sheet, syphilis basic fact sheet, living with HIV 101, chlamydia fact sheet, congenital syphilis fact sheet. All handouts are easy to read and are available in English and Spanish. Next meeting is on May 7th.

E. Faith- No Report Out

F. Outreach

Outreach met on April 3rd and a presentation from All Dads Matter. They discussed their next pop-up event. As of right now, they are doing quarterly pop-up events in parks. The upcoming pop-up event is sponsored by the Merced Police Department on June 22nd. The event will be held at Joe Herb Park from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. They will be sending out a link for providers to sign up. The purpose of this event is to provide services to our homeless population and raise awareness of what they are doing for the homeless population in the community. They will keep us updated on future events; the next meeting is on April 17th at their new location, Merced Civic Center Samuel Pipes Room.

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

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

XII. CoC General Membership Comments - None

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm. Next meeting: May 2, 2024 from 11:00 am -12:30 pm via Microsoft Teams