Call to Order. Taking of the Roll. Roll taken and there was a quorum established with 18 out of 27 members. The roll included Ms. Allicyn Tasaka present on behalf of DLIR as a representative for Mr. Hoshijo. The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by the Chair.

Chair Morishige welcomed everyone and noted that all material was sent out electronically. Council members were asked to sign up at the registration desk if they did not receive handouts in advance of the meeting. Members of the public were also asked to request a copy of materials from staff, and were advised that a sign-up list was available to receive a copy of the meeting packet and handouts by e-mail.
The Chair provided a brief overview of the agenda for today’s meeting, and acknowledged the continued progress that the council and other stakeholders are making in addressing homelessness statewide.

II. **Overview and Approval of Agenda.** The Chair presented the agenda and recommended a revision to the order of new business agenda items. The Chair proposed reversing the order of items B and C and asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Menino. The Chair opened the floor for discussion, and seeing none, the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **Approval of Minutes.** The Chair reminded members that the March 19, 2018, meeting minutes were included in the members’ packets. The Chair provided time for members to review the minutes, and asked if there were any additions/corrections. Noting none, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2018, Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Menino and seconded by Mr. Rolf. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Public testimony.** Chair Morishige opened the floor to public testimony. The public was asked to keep testimony limited to no more than one minute.

a. **Mr. Michael Peacock, Hawaii Vet to Vet**
   Mr. Peacock thanked the Council for its continued work to address homelessness. In reference to youth homelessness, Mr. Peacock stressed the importance of utilizing peer specialists to better connect with homeless youth. Mr. Peacock also added that the peer specialist certification program can provide an additional educational and vocational opportunity for homeless youth.

b. **Mr. David Cannell**
   Mr. Cannell discussed the impacts of poverty and economic injustice that had ‘resulted in many of the problems related to homelessness. Mr. Cannell cited the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948, which stated that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including housing. Mr. Cannell also distributed materials to Council members and the public.

Ms. Maldonado arrived at 10:09 a.m., and Mr. Daniel Kaneshiro arrived at 10:15 a.m.

Quorum was revised to reflect 20 out of 27 members present.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for either testifier, or any discussion regarding the testimony from the public.

Mr. Alexander expressed his appreciation for Mr. Cannell’s testimony and continued contributions to the Council meetings, especially regarding the basic right to housing that is fit for human habitation.

The Chair recognized Mr. Alexander’s comments, and noted them for the record.

V. **New Business**
a. Discussion regarding youth homelessness in Hawaii, including the recent Street Youth Study Report and a brief overview of services for the youth homeless population.

The Chair provided brief background information regarding youth homelessness initiatives, and introduced presenters from the following agencies:

• University of Hawaii Center on the Family
• Waikiki Health
• Hale Kipa
• RYSE

Presentation by University of Hawaii Center on the Family; Waikiki Health; Hale Kipa; and RYSE.

The presenters introduced themselves and utilized a short Power Point presentation to share key findings of the Street Youth Study Report. A copy of the Summary Report was provided to the Council and members of the public.

Dr. Yuan provided a brief background of the Street Youth Study and the needs it sought to address. Transition-age youth, ages 18-24, are among the fastest-growing homeless subpopulations. However, data from the Point in Time (PIT) Count and other homelessness measurement tools are often limited, and do not capture in detail the issues facing homeless youth.

The survey used in the Street Youth Study was created in partnership with Waikiki Health and Hale Kipa, both of whom serve youth who are experiencing homelessness. Participants were encountered through Waikiki Health’s Youth Outreach (YO) Clinic and street outreach efforts. A total of 151 youth participated in the survey, with over seventy-five percent between the ages of 18-24.

Dr. Yuan discussed some of the findings from the survey and implications for further research and services for youth who were homeless or who had run away from home.

• Around one-half of respondents were classified as “idle youth,” meaning the youth were not enrolled in school or working.
• Over half of respondents were unaccompanied youth, with around thirty-three percent living with a family household. Around seven percent indicated they were parenting youth (living with a child as head of household or spouse).
• When asked where they had stayed within the past twelve months, over eighty percent indicated they had been unsheltered at some point. Only around one-quarter of respondents indicated they had stayed at a shelter.
• Nearly half of respondents indicated they had their first homeless experience with their family, and the average age at first homeless experience was 14.1 years.
• Prominent risk factors for youth homelessness included abuse, family-based risk factors, and interactions with foster care and juvenile detention systems.
• Around one-quarter of homeless and runaway youth surveyed reported “fair” or “poor” health, compared to only around five percent of the general population.

Mr. Kent Anderson summarized the following key trends related to youth homelessness:

• A majority of homeless and runaway youth have experienced physical, verbal/emotional, or sexual abuse.
• Homeless and runaway youth are looking for survival, often to escape an abusive situation at home.
• Youth are more likely to be victims of violent crime, rather than perpetrators.
Discussion and Questions.

Dr. Bruce Anderson asked what percentage of homeless individuals are youth under the age of 24.

- Mr. Kent Anderson estimated that 500-700 youth are served at the Youth Outreach drop-in center, and including information from street outreach, estimated that anywhere from 700-1,000 youth are experiencing homelessness or have run away from home. Based on the recent PIT figures, he estimated that around one-fifteenth of the general homeless population are unaccompanied youth.

The Chair asked Ms. Carla Houser to provide information about the new RYSE program serving homeless youth.

- Ms. Houser described RYSE's new youth access center, located on the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility campus. The center opened last week and has the capacity to serve up to 20 youth. The center includes beds for street-entrenched youth who are not ready to engage in supportive services, but need access to a safe place to stay while they develop relationships with trusting adults, as well as bedrooms for youth who are engaged with case management services. The new facility will use the Coordinated Entry System (CES) process for referrals.

The Chair asked Ms. Houser, as both the Data Chair for Partners in Care and the new Youth CES Administrator, to explain the CES process for youth.

- Ms. Houser explained that CES is a tool used by homeless service providers to determine the most appropriate housing interventions based on need. Individuals are given a vulnerability assessment and are matched with available housing resources based on their vulnerability score. Ms. Houser noted that there were around 4,000 adults on the Singles By-Name List (BNL) for CES, and around 120 were in the process of being transferred to the Youth BNL. There are currently 38 youth on the Youth BNL.

The Chair clarified that these figures include only Oahu. At this time, Bridging the Gap (BTG) is focusing on the CES process for single adults and families.

The Chair provided Mr. Campbell time to share additional information about youth services on Oahu.

- Mr. Campbell provided information about Hale Kipa's therapeutic living programs that serve homeless youth.

Mr. Hoshijo arrived at 10:33 a.m., and replaced Ms. Tasaka as the representative for DLIR.

b. Discussion regarding the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness and ten-year strategic plan to address homelessness, including specific strategies, tactics, and metrics and examining the intersection between local initiatives and federal initiatives to address homelessness.

The Chair provided brief background information regarding the State's ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness using a housing-focused approach. To ensure homelessness is a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience, the State has added affordable housing, invested in evidence-based strategies and performance-based contracts, and increased the emphasis on public safety for those living outdoors. This year's PIT Count indicated a second consecutive statewide decrease in individuals experiencing homelessness, and the first annual decrease on Oahu in the past nine years.

The Chair introduced Ms. Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator for the United Stated Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).
Presentation by Ms. Katy Miller, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Ms. Miller introduced herself and thanked the Council for the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Ms. Miller summarized some of the upcoming changes to the federal strategic plan to address homelessness, including areas that USICH determined were not adequately addressed in the original federal strategic plan. The main areas of focus in the upcoming federal strategic plan include the following:

- Emphasis on practical, hands-on, and action-oriented practices
- Focus on best practices
- Data from nationwide input sessions
- Increasing affordable housing
- Emphasis on prevention and diversion
- Unsheltered homelessness
- Homelessness in rural communities
- Employment and other strategies to permanently exit homelessness

Ms. Miller also explained the federal benchmarks for making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring:

**Rare**
- Focus on system building
- Employ diversion and prevention strategies

**Brief**
- Comprehensive outreach services
- Low-barrier emergency shelters
- Strong CES with Housing First principles

**Non-recurring**
- Stable exits to permanent housing with supportive services
- Housing as a platform to access other opportunities and to help people move on with their lives
- Systems maintenance

Ms. Miller informed the Council that the best way to keep informed about USICH policy guidance is to subscribe to the USICH newsletter, which is being released every two weeks. Recent guidance cautioning the use of safe zones and shelter best practices has been released. Upcoming guidance will include strategies for rural homelessness and affordable housing.

Mr. Alexander asked Ms. Miller to speak more about the important role of low-barrier emergency shelters.

- Ms. Miller explained that some communities have seen increases in homelessness that are driven by the unsheltered homeless population. This can often be attributed to barriers within the emergency shelter system. Ideally, emergency shelters will focus on assessment and triage, and will not be utilized as long-term housing solutions. Ms. Miller emphasized the importance of the "Three P's" that make shelter a more desirable option than being outdoors: pets, partners, and possessions. Ms. Miller commented that if shelters do not provide adequate accommodations for pets, couples, and possessions, there are few incentives for individuals to move off the streets.

Mr. Rolf referenced the experiences of Jona Goldrich, a real estate developer and philanthropist in the Los Angeles area. Mr. Rolf wondered if the four percent tax credits were still available to developers.
Ms. Miller affirmed that tax credits are an integral component to keep developers’ capital costs down, and noted that tax credits are still available. Ms. Miller stressed the importance of creating affordable housing for the lowest income brackets and involving different layers of subsidies in housing projects.

Mr. Rolf stated that in his calculations, Hawaii would need to around ten buildings per year, for the next ten years, to meet the demand for affordable housing. Mr. Rolf asked if there were any incentives that could attract mainland developers?

Ms. Miller stated that reducing barriers, including permitting requirements, is always an incentive for developers. Ms. Miller noted that some communities have streamlined the process so that capital funding is bundled with service and operating dollars. This type of process has allowed developers in Seattle to build and open new projects in a one-year period.

The Chair commented the Hawaii Housing Finance Development Corporation (HHFDC) has expanded their process to allow developers to apply for funding at any time throughout the year. Previously, developers were limited to specific timelines that did not always align with additional sources of funding. The Chair also noted that the Governor’s emergency proclamations helped to expedite the development process not necessarily by bypassing permitting requirements, but by allowing certain processes to happen concurrently instead of consecutively.

Ms. Miller summarized the importance of bringing funding sources together quickly, supporting inclusionary housing policies, and finding ways to creatively incentivize developers, such as up-zoning, and relaxing requirements for non-essential amenities (e.g. parking).

Dr. Bruce Anderson asked Ms. Miller to discuss some of the national strategies for dealing with large encampments, which are often comprised of people who like being outdoors.

Ms. Miller stated that learning more about the individuals living in the encampments through coordinated outreach efforts is key to successfully offering housing services. Encampments often provide a feeling of community and safety in numbers; which individuals may be reluctant to give up. Ms. Miller stated that in general, people living in encampments usually do want permanent housing, but what they have been offered doesn't look better than what they already have. The absence of better opportunities can drive people to stay outdoors.

The Chair noted that DHS has been spearheading coordinated night outreach efforts over the past few months, which have resulted in successful placements into shelter and connections with services. The Chair attributed recent successes to the coordination of transportation to shelter and services and the range of services offered, including substance abuse treatment. In addition, around 3-4 individuals are connected to shelter during Department of Transportation enforcements per week.

Mr. Brackeen remarked that the coordination between agencies, including HPD, the Cty & County of Honolulu, and outreach providers, has contributed to the increasing success of night outreach efforts. Each night outreach event has connected more individuals to shelter and services than the previous.

The Chair concluded that positive system-level changes over the past three years have been accomplished because of the Council, and that the momentum must be continued going forward. The Chair thanked Ms. Miller for continuing to visit Hawaii and share her knowledge.
At around 11:15 a.m., following the discussion, Mr. Alexander left the meeting. At 11:20 a.m., Mr. Dahlburg joined the meeting.

Quorum was revised to reflect 21 out of 27 members present.

c. Discussion regarding the 2018 Statewide Homeless Point in Time Count and advocacy efforts related to homeless and housing initiatives during the 2018 Hawaii legislative session.

The Chair introduced Mr. Thornton and Ms. Menino, representing Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap respectively, to discuss Partners in Care’s legislative priorities and accomplishments for the 2018 Hawaii legislative session, as well as the results of the Point in Time Count. The Chair commented that information about advocacy efforts and changes in the Point in Time will provide context as the council reviews the Hawaii State Framework and strategic plan to end homelessness.

Presentation by Mr. Gavin Thornton, Partners in Care, and Ms. Brandee Menino, Bridging the Gap.

Mr. Thornton introduced himself and began by providing an overview of Partners in Care (PIC), the Continuum of Care (CoC) for Oahu. Each year, PIC identifies a set of legislative priorities that drive the advocacy process for CoC members. Mr. Thornton explained that the process of determining legislative priorities was recently revamped to be more inclusive, including conducting a member survey and coordinating with Bridging the Gap (BTG), the CoC for Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii counties.

PIC classifies potential legislative issues as “priority,” “support,” or “notify.” The following legislative issues were identified as “priority” issues for the 2018 Hawaii legislative session:

- Homeless outreach
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and targeted outreach for homeless individuals struggling with substance abuse
- Housing First
- Rapid Rehousing
- New affordable housing

Mr. Thornton also noted that PIC identified two issues, safe zones and vacation rentals, as “notify” issues. However, due to capacity constraints, PIC did not focus advocacy efforts around these issues.

Mr. Thornton highlighted some of the PIC Advocacy Committee’s accomplishments, including creating a PIC Advocacy website, revamping the mailing list, and making it easier to submit testimony on legislative measures using the website. PIC also organized the annual Legislative Breakfast, which offers members an opportunity to engage with legislators at the beginning of the legislative session.

Mr. Thornton gave an overview of the programs related to homelessness that were included in the State budget:

- $15 million – lump sum for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Family Assessment Center, etc. $5 million to be used for property storage and enforcement efforts.
- $800,000 – outreach and LEAD
- $1.5 million – Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI)
Mr. Thornton asked if Mr. Norm Baker, Executive Director of Aloha United Way, was available to briefly explain the CSHI.

- Mr. Baker stated that funds from the CSHI are used for eviction prevention, and can cover around three months of rent to prevent a household from becoming homeless. Mr. Baker noted that 97 percent of individuals served had remained housed.

Mr. Thornton noted the following new programs that received appropriations:

- $800,000 – new Family Assessment Center (location not specified)
- $400,000 – new LEAD programs in Maui and Hawaii counties
- $30 million – ohana zones
- $1 million – emergency department assessment pilot (matching requirement)
- $1 million – medical respite (matching requirement)
- $1 million – Hawaii Tourism Authority (matching requirement)

Mr. Rolf asked whether land for ohana zones had been identified yet.

- The Chair stated that the language of SB 2401 is very broad, specifying only that there are to be at least three ohana zones on Oahu and one ohana zone each on Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii island. The bill, along with many others, is still under review.
- Representative Gates clarified that the legislature’s intent was to give the Governor flexibility in implementing ohana zones and to address the barriers to building units. Noting the desire the move away from the tent city model, Representative Gates cited the cost-effectiveness of the modular construction units used at Kahauiki Village.
- The Chair added that the $30 million in SB 2401 is a one-time lump sum appropriation for one fiscal year only, and as such, sustainability and ongoing operating costs are a concern.
- Representative Gates commented that the appropriation was only provided for one fiscal year because the ohana zones are a pilot project. The legislature would like to see what the initial product could be, adding that there is some possibility of future recurring funding.

Mr. Dahlburg asked if the $30 million was intended for just one pilot site.

- Representative Gates clarified that the $30 million dollars was intended to cover all projects.

Mr. Dahlburg asked how much the legislature invested in permanent housing.

- Representative Gates stated that the legislature added $200 million to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) to create affordable housing for households earning up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) or less. Last year, the investment was $25 million. In addition, the legislature approved over $300 million in tax exemptions for projects serving households up to 140 percent AMI.

Mr. Rolf asked how the funding provided for affordable housing would be disbursed.

- Mr. Thornton stated that the funds would be disbursed by the HHFDC and would likely be connected to tax credits.

Mr. Cannell asked how many units would be built with the increased appropriations.
Representative Gates stated that the target is 25,000 homes by 2030.

Ms. Cumming asked if there is a deadline for encumbrance.

The Chair stated that the deadline for encumbrance is supposed to be June 30, 2018 due to the funding coming from the FY 2018 budget.

Seeing no further questions, Mr. Thornton continued the overview of affordable housing appropriations, in addition to the $200 million infusion to the RHRF:

- $10 million – Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (DURF)
- $2.5 million – Kahului civic center/bus hub
- $21.5 million – Hawaii Public Housing Authority statewide improvements
- $450,000 – Hawaii Public Housing Authority State Rent Supplement Program
- $50,000 – housing needs study for special populations
- $30 million/year – General Excise Tax exemptions for construction of new rental units for households earning up to 140 percent AMI for a twelve-year period

Mr. Rolf stated that target of 25,000 new units doesn’t seem consistent with the infusions, suggesting that 5,000 units is a more reasonable target. In addition, Mr. Rolf stated that his calculations indicate that – depending on the number of units per project – a single affordable housing project could cost as much as $71 million for one building. Mr. Rolf questioned the calculation that the legislature used to arrive at the $200 million infusion into RHRF and the estimate of 25,000 new units associated with this funding level.

The Chair asked if there were any further questions regarding PIC legislative advocacy efforts and, seeing none, the Chair asked that Mr. Thornton move to the next portion of his presentation relating to the 2018 PIT Count results.

Mr. Thornton introduced Ms. Menino to discuss the key findings of the 2018 PIT Count. Ms. Menino stated that that results of the 2018 PIT Count were released just over one month earlier, and the statewide decrease was calculated at 9.6 percent. This is the second consecutive statewide decrease in the past two years. In addition, each county experienced a decrease in homelessness, with Kauai recording the highest decrease since last year’s PIT Count.

Mr. Cannell asked how many people living in cars were counted. Mr. Cannell stated that the figures seem inaccurate, as people who live in their cars and in isolated areas do not want to be located, and volunteers might not know where homeless people are.

Ms. Menino stated that the PIT Count is just one tool to measure homelessness, and that data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is used to get a more accurate count of individuals who access homeless services each year.

Mr. Rolf asked if the number of volunteers for the PIT Count was significantly lower in 2018 than in prior years.

Ms. Menino responded that the number of volunteers in Hawaii County were higher than in prior years.

The Chair noted that the total number of volunteers in 2018 was estimated at a little over 600, which is approximately 100 less than the prior year.

Representative Gates noted that the overall decrease on Oahu was not reflected in his district of Waianae, which registered an increase of around seventeen percent. Representative Gates
noted that the number of homeless individuals in his district appears higher than the 2018 PIT Count estimates, possibly due to enforcement occurring in other areas.

Dr. Bruce Anderson commented that the methodology of the PIT Count has remained consistent each year. Therefore, although homeless individuals may be undercounted, they are consistently undercounted.

Dr. Bruce Anderson also questioned PIC’s legislative focus on vacation rentals, noting that parties interested in the proliferation of vacation rentals and homelessness do not appear to be overlapping groups.

- Mr. Thornton clarified that PIC did not take any action items on vacation rentals.

Mr. Dahlburg asked how the legislature incorporates the council’s work and findings into the budget and other legislative measures.

- Representative Gates stated that his strategy has been to meet with providers in his district to get a better sense of what their needs are. Data from these interactions drives the legislature on service gaps to be filled.

Mr. Dahlburg followed by asking if the legislature works with PIC.

- Mr. Thornton stated that the legislature does work with PIC, but there is always room for improvement. The legislature is also a diverse group of individuals, rather than a single entity. Mr. Thornton would like to see more dialogue with legislators, although the political process can make this difficult.

The Chair thanked the group for the robust discussion and restated that it is a good time to revisit the State’s framework and advocacy to shape both the legislature’s and the community’s responses to homelessness. The data reflects progress: exits to permanent housing have increased, while the length of stay in homeless programs has decreased. These measures correlate with HUD’s systems performance measures for evaluating the performance of our State as a whole.

VI. Permitted Interaction Group

a. Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to review and recommend potential revisions to the ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness, and the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness.

The Chair updated the council that the discussions of this permitted interaction group are still ongoing. The group will continue to meet and an update should be ready to be presented at the next meeting.

VII. General Announcements

A. Chairperson and Staff Reports: April/May/June 2018

The Chair shared the staff report for the period from April through June 2018 and noted that a copy of the report will be provided.

B. Written Reports from Council Members.

The following written updates are provided for the Council’s consideration and review (the full write-ups for each representative will be provided):
• Department of Human Services (DHS)
• Department of Public Safety (PSD)
• Department of Health (DOH)
• City & County of Honolulu
• County of Hawaii
• County of Maui
• County of Kauai
• Partners in Care, Oahu’s Continuum of Care
• Continuum of Care – Hawaii Island
• Continuum of Care – Maui County
• Continuum of Care – Kauai County
• U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.)

VIII. Executive session

Pursuant to H.R.S. §92-7(a), the Council may, when deemed necessary, hold an Executive Session on any agenda item without the written public notice if the Executive Session was not anticipated in advance. Any such Executive Session shall be held pursuant to H.R.S. §92-4 and shall be limited to those items described in H.R.S. §92-5(a). Discussions held in Executive Session are closed to the public.

The Chair stated that an Executive Session is not necessary at this time.

IX. Topics for upcoming meetings.

The Chair noted that an invitation will be extended to HHFDC to present at the next Council meeting in regard to the recent appropriation of $200 million for the RHRF.

Representative Gates requested an update on the disaster response and resources in Puna, and an update on homeless enforcement efforts. Dr. Bruce Anderson concurred with this request.

The Chair asked members to contact his office with additional suggestions for upcoming meetings. The office can be reached at 586-0193 or by e-mail at gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov.

X. Meeting schedule.

The following Council meetings are proposed for the 2018 calendar year:

• September 17, 2018, 10 a.m. to noon
• December 17, 2018, 10 a.m. to noon
XI. **Adjourn.**  
Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Representative Gates and seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFICATION**

Minutes prepared by:

Jason Kasamoto  
Homelessness Special Assistant and Public Affairs

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at their Regular Meeting on September 17, 2018:

[ ] As Presented  [ ] As Amended

Scott S. Morishige, MSW  
Chair