

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)
Honolulu International Airport Conference Rooms 3&4

December 12, 2016
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Council Attendees:

Scott Morishige	Chair
Bridget Holthus for	Director of the Department of Human Services
Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for	Director of the Department of Public Safety
Kamana'o Mills for	Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission
Brigadier General Bruce Oliveira for	Adjutant General of the Department of Defense
Deja Ostrowski	Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Hakim Ouansafi	Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Jun Yang for	Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu
Jennifer Stasch	Continuum of Care for the City & County of Honolulu, Partners In Care
Debra DeLuis	Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai, Bridging the Gap
Brandee Menino	Continuum of Care for the County of Hawaii, Bridging the Gap
Mark Chandler	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development
Andrew Dahlburg	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Pastor Daniel Kaneshiro	Faith-Based Representative
Dave Rolf	Business Community

Absent:

Representatives from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Department of Business, Economic, Development & Tourism; Attorney General, Department of Education, County of Maui, CoC Maui, County of Kauai, County of Hawaii, State House of Representatives, State Senate

Staff:

Tamah-Lani Noh, Community Engagement Specialist; Julie Ford, Public Affairs Specialist; Julie Haruki, Homelessness Assistant; Ipo Paia, Administrative Assistant on Homelessness

Special Guests:

Andrea Suzuki, Deputy Attorney General; Senator Josh Green

- I. **Call to Order. Taking of the Roll.** Roll taken and there was no quorum established with 13 out of 27 members. Chair noted that action items will be taken up when there is quorum. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by the Chair.

Chair Morishige welcomed everyone and noted that all material was sent out electronically. Please sign up at the registration desk if you are not receiving the handouts in advance of the meetings. Homeless Coordinator's staff is available to help.

The Chair introduced Andrea Suzuki, our Deputy Attorney General that is helping to ensure the meeting is run properly in accordance with Sunshine Law requirements.

The Chair welcomed new council member Ms. Debra DeLuis and Pastor Daniel Kaneshiro. Ms. Deluis has been designated by Mayor Bernard Carvalho to represent the Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai. Pastor Kaneshiro has been designated to represent the faith-based community.

At 10:10 a.m., Ms. Deja Ostrowski joined the meeting. Quorum was established with 14 members present.

At 10:17 a.m. Director Hakim Ouansafi joined the meeting.

At 10:20 a.m. Mr. Mark Chandler joined the meeting.

At 10:26 a.m. Mr. Jun Yang joined the meeting.

- II. **Overview and Approval of Agenda.** The Chair presented the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Director Ginny Pressler and seconded by Deputy Director Bridget Holthus. 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 October 17, 2016 meeting minutes were e-mailed to members and that copies of the 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 October 17, 2016, Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Mills and seconded by Director Pressler. 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 everyone for their support of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. He stated that he has been attending Partners In Care (PIC) meetings, and expressed concerns that the PIC meeting and decision making process is not transparent. Mr. Peacock also shared concern in regard to public access to data related to homeless services.

The Chair acknowledged Mr. Peacock's concerns, and suggested that he speak with Ms. Stasch, who represents PIC on the council.

b. **Ms. Cynthia Rezentes, Leeward Housing Coalition and Kealahou West Oahu**

Ms. Rezentes stated that she is a member of the Leeward Housing Coalition, and

a member of the Board of Directors of Kealahou West Oahu. Ms. Rezendes expressed concern about the geographic regions designated for the 2017 point in time count. Specifically, Ms. Rezendes expressed that a written map she observed was different than information she and providers had received verbally.

The Chair acknowledged Ms. Rezendes' concerns, and suggested that she speak with Ms. Stasch, who represents PIC on the council and is coordinating the 2017 point in time count efforts on Oahu.

V. 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 HICH structure and make recommendations.

The Chair provided an update from the group for the full council. Based on the group's discussions, it was recommended that the Chair convene a group of private and public funders to support work related to homelessness.

The funders group convened and includes representatives from the following: State of Hawaii; City and County of Honolulu; Aloha United Way; Hawaii Community Foundation; Partners in Care (Continuum of Care for Honolulu); and Bridging the Gap (Continuum of Care for the Balance of State). This group will address how public and private efforts may be better aligned, and will discuss the best mechanism to convene further discussion.

The Chair also shared that conversations with the National Governors Association (NGA) regarding the HICH structure have been ongoing. The NGA may have additional technical assistance (T.A.) and funding resources to support the HICH's re-examination of its structure and function. Two options have been presented by the NGA for the use of potential funding and T.A.:

1. T.A. can be made available between January 2017 to June 2017 to assist the Chair's office and the HICH via telephone consultation.
2. Resources can be provided to support travel to another community in order to examine the interagency council and Continuum of Care governance structure in these communities. Two possible communities identified were Minnesota and Houston.

b. Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to review and develop a sustainability plan for the Hawaii Pathways Project (HPP).

The Chair provided an update from the group for the full council. Based on the group's discussion, the DOH recently contracted the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to assist with an implementation plan for sustainability of the HPP, and for technical assistance to the DHS Med-QUEST Division in their work to amend the existing 1115 Medicaid waiver to expand case management services for the chronically homeless.

The Chair also reported on the group's efforts to produce tangible outcomes that transition real people from homelessness to housing. Specifically, Chair Morishige

shared that staff from DOH and the City & County of Honolulu have worked with HPP staff to implement a plan to transition at least 30 chronically homeless clients into permanent housing. The partnership will leverage State case management resources, and City vouchers and housing properties. The first individual assisted through this partnership will be placed into Pauahi Hale later this month.

VI. New Business.

a. Discussion and possible action regarding the formation of a working group pursuant to H.R.S. §92-2.5 to review and provider support for the 2017 statewide homeless point in time count.

Chair Morishige provided background information in regard to this action item. The point in time count is an annual survey, which **is** mandated by HUD, and is usually conducted in late January. PIC coordinates the point in time count on Oahu, while Bridging the Gap coordinates the point in time count on the neighbor islands. In previous years, there have been concerns that the point in time count has been inaccurate and significantly undercounts the number of homeless persons statewide. In part, these concerns are connected to a concern that overall volunteer participation to support the point in time count has been low.

The Chair is proposing that a permitted interaction group be established to support the work of the CoCs in implementing and executing the 2017 statewide point in time count. To assist the council members in their deliberation on this item, the Chair invited members Ms. Stasch and Ms. Menino to share information about the plans of PIC and BTG respectively related to the point in time count.

Presentation by Ms. Jennifer Stasch (Partners in Care)

Ms. Stasch began by introducing herself, and providing a review of the seven regions that will be covered by the Oahu point in time count. Each of the seven regions has been assigned a “lead agency” to coordinate efforts within that region. The regions and respective lead agencies are as follows:

- Region 1 (Downtown Honolulu): Kalihi-Palama Health Center
- Region 2 (East Honolulu): Institute for Human Services
- Region 3 (Ewa): U.S. Vets
- Region 4 (Lower Windward): Partners in Care
- Region 5 (North Shore): Alea Bridge
- Region 6 (Upper Windward): Partners in Care
- Region 7 (Leeward Coast): Kealahou West Oahu

Ms. Stasch shared that community involvement is key to the success of the 2017 Oahu point in time count. She shared her efforts to reach out to various community organizations, such as churches and business groups, to recruit volunteers for the count. PIC has established a website to support volunteer recruitment. All interested volunteers may sign up at:

<http://www.partnersincareoahu.org/homelessness-hawaii>

Finally, Ms. Stasch discussed the use of incentives to increase participation by homeless individuals in the count. PIC is working to collect incentives, which include gift certificates, and other donated items (e.g. toiletries, etc.).

Presentation by Ms. Menino (Bridging the Gap)

Ms. Menino introduced herself, and began by sharing that the geographic regions for the neighbor island point in time count has remained unchanged from prior years. Similar to PIC, BTG is recruiting community volunteers to assist with the upcoming count, and also coordinates with street outreach providers and shelters within each county.

Ms. Menino noted a key difference for BTG this year is that all data from the count will be inputted into the HMIS Caseworthy system. She noted that training has been provided to support providers to input data into the new system.

Discussion

Mr. Rolf asked if the military would be involved with the upcoming count.

Ms. Stasch responded that the community in Windward Oahu has been engaged in discussion with the national guard and the U.S. Marine corps at Kaneohe to discuss potential involvement.

Senator Green asked what additional data would be available through the upcoming count. Specifically, he is interested in whether mental health services and nutritional data will be included.

Ms. Stasch responded that data from the point in time count is self reported by individuals. She added that the point in time count survey does include questions related to mental health, but that the responses may be an undercount due to self reporting.

Ms. Menino added that the point in time count survey includes basic demographic data such as: veteran status, family composition, and ethnicity.

Ms. Ostrowski commented that OHA can provide technical assistance to support the design of point in time count survey questions. Ms. Ostrowski noted that, in the past, OHA has expressed concern that Native Hawaiian demographics are not specifically captured through the existing survey.

Chair Morishige suggested that the permitted interaction group include the Chair, a representative from PIC, a representative from BTG, a representative from the City & County of Honolulu, a representative from the DHS Homeless Programs Office, and a representative from OHA.

Senator Green suggested that PIC and BTG consider partnering with the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and Queen's Hospital, as both of these organizations have expressed interest in data collection related to homelessness.

Deputy Attorney General Suzuki and Chair Morishige both clarified that, per language in the H.R.S., the permitted interaction group may only consist of members of the council.

Motion to convene a permitted interaction group pursuant to H.R.S. §92-2.5 to review and provide support for the 2017 statewide homeless point in time count.
(Vote)

Mr. Mills made the motion. Mr. Dahlburg seconded.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion. Seeing no further discussion,

the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair stated that Community Engagement Specialist Tamah-Lani Noh will be in contact with the members of the permitted interaction group to convene a meeting prior to the next meeting of the full council.

b. Discussion and possible action regarding the adoption of a meeting schedule for calendar year 2017.

Chair Morishige distributed a proposed meeting schedule for 2017, which proposed meetings be held on the third Monday of each month.

Director Ouansafi shared that the third Monday in March 2017 may conflict with the 2017 state legislative session. Director Ouansafi noted that in 2016, the council did not convene during the legislative session.

Deputy Director Maesaka-Hirata noted that the 2017 House and Senate committee hearing schedule notes that no hearings will be scheduled on Monday mornings.

Chair Morishige responded that staff will monitor the legislative session for potential conflicts with the proposed meeting schedule. He noted that the House Committee on Finance and Senate Committee on Ways and Means may convene hearings on the budget outside of the dates and times listed in the House and Senate committee hearing schedule.

Motion to adopt a meeting schedule for calendar year 2017. (Vote)

Ms. Menino made the motion. Director Pressler seconded.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion. Seeing no further discussion, the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. General Announcements

A. Chairperson and staff reports: November/December 2016 Status Report.

The Chair referred to a handout entitled "Highlights of Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness Staff Activities, Monthly Report for November and December 2016."

The Chair noted that staff continue to be involved in numerous community groups and coalitions, such as the Windward Homeless Alliance and federal partners (e.g. USICH, HUD, VA, etc.).

The Chair shared that staff hosted federal partners during a recent visit to Honolulu. The partners shared that collaboration has increased compared to an earlier visit two years ago.

Finally, the Chair highlighted items from the Executive Budget request for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium. In particular, the budget includes increased funding for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach, the state Rent Supplement, and targeted services for unsheltered individuals experiencing serious mental illness and substance use disorders.

- B. **Pursuant to H.R.S. §346-382(a)(17), the Council requests that the Mayors of the Counties of Hawaii and Kauai designate a representative of the continuum of care programs for their respective counties.**

Chair Morishige acknowledged that designation letters were recently received from the respective counties.

- C. **Written reports from council members.**

The Chair noted that written reports have been provided by members of the council.

Mr. Yang noted that Mayor Caldwell is in San Francisco attending a meeting with other West Coast mayors, and intends to meet with HUD Secretary Castro during his trip. The Mayor is committed to working together with other jurisdictions to address homelessness, including a specific focus on reducing the number of homeless veterans in Honolulu.

- VIII. **Executive session.**

Chair Morishige determined there is no need to enter executive session at this time.

- IX. **Topics for upcoming meetings.**

The Chair asked members for suggestions on topics for upcoming meetings. There was no further discussion. Members were encouraged to contact the Community Engagement Specialist prior to the next meeting with any suggestions or feedback.

- X. **Meeting schedule.**

Chair Morishige reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2017. The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Honolulu International Airport in the Interisland Terminal, Conference Rooms 3 & 4.

- XI. **Adjourn.**

Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Ms. Menino, and seconded by Director Ouansafi. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes prepared by:

Tamah-Lani Noh
Community Engagement Specialist

Date

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at their Regular Meeting on March 20, 2016: [] As Presented [] As Amended

Scott S. Morishige, MSW
Chair

Date