

Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)
Meeting
December 8, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Honolulu International Airport Conference Facilities
International Terminal Conference Room 2
Minutes

Council Attendees:

Scott Morishige	Chair
Director Rachael Wong	Department of Human Services
Lori Tsuhako	Department of Human Services/Homeless Programs Office
Lynn Fallin	Department of Health
Elaine Young for	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Director Nolan Espinda	Department of Public Safety
Director Luis Salaveria	Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism
Kamana'o Mills for	Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
Brigadier General "Joe" Logan	Department of Defense
Deja Ostrowski for	Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Lila King for	Department of the Attorney General
Debra Farmer for	Department of Education
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland	Senate
Representative Jo Jordan	House of Representatives
Dawn Takeuchi Apuna for	Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Gary Nakata for	City and County of Honolulu, Mayor's Office
Clarysse Nunokawa for	Hawaii County, Mayor's Office
Carol Reimann for	Maui County, Mayor's Office
Greg Payton	Partners In Care
Maude Cumming	Bridging The Gap
Andrew Dahlburg	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Mark Chandler	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Dave Rolf	Business Representative
Present on Phone:	Mariam Chase, SAMHSA
Absent:	Representatives from Kauai County Mayor's Office, Faith Community

1. 10:20 am Welcome by Scott Morishige, HICH Chair, roll taken, quorum established, meeting called to order.
2. 10:22 am First Order of Business: Action on Agenda. Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Kamana'o Mills and Seconded by Lori Tsuhako. Chair Morishige opened the floor for discussion seeing none Chair Morishige called the question. The motion passed unanimously. (See attached copy of agenda).
3. 10:25 am Second Order of Business: Action on June 9, 2015 Minutes: Chair gave a brief overview/summary of the minutes and entertained a motion. Motion to Adopt the Minutes from the June 9, 2015 Meeting was made by Kamana'o Mills and Seconded by Lila King. The chair opened the floor for discussion Representative Jordan stated a point of clarification regarding the advance availability of the meeting minutes. She stated that she would abstain from voting on the motion to adopt the minutes due to lack of sufficient time to fully digest them. Chair called the question. The motion passed with 22 affirmative votes and 1 abstention. (see attached copy of 6/9/15 minutes)

4. 10:30 am Third Order of Business: Action on October 19, 2015 Minutes: Chair gave a brief overview/summary of the minutes and entertained a motion. Motion to Adopt the Minutes from the October 19, 2015 Meeting was made by Director Wong and Seconded by Director Salaveria. The chair opened the floor for discussion and called the question. The motion passed with 22 affirmative votes and 1 abstention. (see attached copy of 10/19/15 minutes)
5. 10:35 am Calendar Meetings for 2016. Chair Morishige turned the discussion over to Brian Matson, Administrative Assistant on Homelessness, Office of the Governor, who shared the tentative meeting dates for calendar year 2016 which are Tuesday March 1, 2016, Tuesday June 7, 2016, Tuesday September 13, 2016, and Tuesday December 6, 2016. He informed the council that the venue for the meetings will tentatively be the Airport Conference Center, subject to confirmation 60 days prior to each meeting. Gary Nakata shared that the Honolulu Mayor's Cabinet has meetings scheduled for 3/1/16, 6/7/16 and 12/6/16 and requested that the council take this under consideration when calendaring these meetings. Representative Jordan shared that the legislature will be in session from 1/20/16 to 5/5/16 so there may be a conflict on 3/1/16. Chair Morishige shared that the 3/1/16 meeting was set to fall during a Mandatory 5 day legislative recess period. He also stated that the concerns mentioned will be considered before the schedule is finalized.

Chair Morishige gave a brief overview of the statutorily created HICH and shared that the intent is to structure future meetings to best represent the interests of the members. He referred to the copy of HRS: 346-381 which was distributed to council members in advance of this meeting so members could review the statute and the specific purpose of the HICH. Chair Morishige opened the table for discussion of the structure of meetings. Chair noted that we have TA providers that come into the community on a regular basis and suggested that TA providers and National Experts could be invited to attend future HICH meetings and share information with the members. Chair also suggested the HICH could focus on specific areas of concern such as developing low income and affordable housing. Dave Rolf shared the idea of having a visual representation of the goal and the progress toward the goal similar to a fund raising initiative so all can see how we are doing using data. He offered to work on this. Chair thanked Mr. Rolf for his suggestion and mentioned that it aligns with Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan "Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System" and the HICH Working Group 1 "Strengthen Data Collection / Statewide Outreach" which is co-chaired by members Payton and Cumming and encouraged member Rolf to join the working group. Member Dahlburg suggested including the voice of a current or formerly homeless veteran on the HICH. Gary Nakata suggested that the council consider the addition of a current or formerly homeless individual rather than limiting it to a Veteran. Director Wong discussed changing the structure of the HICH to more closely align with the structure of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) by having the membership elect a chair and vice chair from among the members to increase the engagement of the members and free the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to staff and prepare the council for meetings. Chair Morishige concurred that the USICH structure is different than the HICH and noted that this change would require legislation to change the language in the statute.

6. 10:43 am Updates from HICH Membership. Chair Morishige called upon each member to share information with the council and the public regarding progress being made within their departments and future plans.
 - a. DHS Director Wong thanked the collaborative efforts of partners in DOH, HPHA, HHFDC, to submit a letter of intent to the Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program for technical assistance related to Medicaid housing related services and

partnerships. This is an example of ongoing efforts different agencies are doing to address systems.

- b. Lynn Fallin presented an update on several DOH efforts. The first was on the SAMHSA CABHI grant that is administered by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD). She shared that they have enrolled 86 clients and placed 41 in permanent housing with a 100% retention rate among those in permanent housing which exceeds the national average retention rate of 80%. In conjunction with this project the UH evaluator is collaborating with HMSA in a pilot study to examine the cost of health care service and usage by the clients in the Hawai'i Pathways Project in the hope that the data will inform them going forward. ADAD also has a continuation of the legislative initiative around clean and sober housing. Her second was that the Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD), working with the administration, has made Behavioral Health Revitalization a priority. They are working closely with the DHS Med Quest Division and appreciate their help. DOH is working on an RFP for a Secure Diversion Facility on O'ahu and they hope that this will help those who have mental health challenges and are forensically encumbered find their way to quick decision making and access to Mental Health treatment. DOH also has an RFP for Specialized Residential Services, looking for more providers and hoping to expand capacity by 20. She shared that, thanks to encouragement and advice from advocates, the homeless case management and outreach will be refocused to be more proactive and will fund things which were previously not funded such as cell phones, mileage, etc. A major item for DOH this legislative session is a new State Hospital Facility which will expand the capacity by 144 beds.
- c. DLIR had no update for the council.
- d. DPS had no update to report. Chair Morishige stated that the DPS jointly applied with DHS and DOH for technical assistance.
- e. Director Salaveria presented a brief update on DBEDT. He reported that DBEDT continues to work with Hawai'i Housing Finance Development Corporation (HHFDC) and all stakeholders in Kakaako to support efforts in the area with a focus on creating more data sets around housing the homeless.
- f. Kamana'o Mills presented two updates on behalf of DHHL. He shared that the DHHL mission is to create affordable permanent affordable housing for native Hawaiians which is consistent with goal two of the strategic plan to end homelessness. DHHL created the HALE program last year which has two objectives: getting people into homes and keeping people in homes. To support the first objective they have executed two contracts which provide services on O'ahu, Kaua'i and Hawai'i Islands to serve up to 800 people. To support the second objective they have created the Lease Cancellation Foreclosure Prevention program which has served 151 DHHL lessees (about 2% of their overall lessees) in the past year through three contracted agencies. He also provided an update on the NAHASDA spenddown plan. They have several new projects underway such as dedicating \$3.5 million to East Hawai'i foreclosure prevention. They are creating a packaged home product for individual whose income falls between 40-50% of AMI with very affordable monthly payments for those beneficiaries who qualify. He shared that by June 2017 they will be creating a new rental project (rent with the option to purchase) in Kona which will dedicate \$12.5 million for 117 lots.
- g. DOD had no update for the council.
- h. Deja Ostrowski presented an update on behalf of OHA. She shared that OHA recently announced funding related to economic self-sufficiency. They have

programs that fund building affordable homes as well as financial assistance for down payments. She directed the council members to visit www.oha.org/research for more information and details.

- i. AG had no update for the council.
- j. Debra Farmer provided an update on behalf of the DOE. She shared that they are obligated to provide free breakfast, lunch and transportation to all students who have been identified as homeless. DOE is providing this assistance within 24 hours of identification. They are examining the opportunity to place part time teachers in shelters to support students and parents with completion of homework.
- k. Representative Jordan provided an update from the state house of representatives. She shared that she is currently working with housing committee chair Hashem. They will be focusing on housing issues and coordinating with all four county governments to move forward with the development of housing statewide.
- l. HPHA had no update for the council.
- m. Gary Nakata provided an update on behalf of the city and county of Honolulu. He reported that the city is happy to collaborate with the state on a number of initiatives including efforts in Kakaako, and Landlord engagement. The City just completed the first year of their permanent housing program and they are pleased to share that they met their objectives and will be moving to the second year of implementation. The City has opened Hale Mauiola on Sand Island. Mr. Nakata introduced Sandra Pfund and Jay Parasco who work on behalf of the city on their housing and homeless initiatives.
- n. Clarysse Nunokawa provided an update on behalf of the Mayor of Hawai'i Island. She shared that the Mayor's task force in East and West Hawai'i together with their community alliance partners convened a joint planning meeting on December 3, 2015. She thanked Chair Morishige for his participation in the meeting and support of their efforts. The intention of the meeting was to align their efforts with the state plan and to focus their energy on access to stable and affordable housing. She announced that the mayor's office is collaborating with the Governor's office to convene two landlord summits (one in Hilo and one in Kona) in early 2016. They are also working on convening a faith based gathering. A micro unit project is underway for West Hawai'i and scheduled for completion in 2016.
- o. Carol Reimann provided an update on behalf of the Mayor of Maui County. She shared that the Mayor's office has articulated short term and mid-term goals to address homelessness. The three short term goals include: the purchase of modular units to be located on three locations to house up to 192 individuals; the introduction of some anti nuisance laws; and the funding of some additional positions to address homelessness. Two mid-term goals include: building micro units in two locations (one in West Maui and one in Central Maui); and opening their section 8 waitlist.
- p. Greg Payton provided an update on behalf of Partners In Care (PIC). He shared an overview of the Coordinated Access Housing Placement System and the ongoing work to end homelessness in Hawai'i. (see attached handout)
- q. Maude Cumming provided an update on behalf of Bridging The Gap (BTG). She explained that Bridging The Gap has a unique challenge because they cover three islands (Maui, Kaua'i and Hawai'i). She discussed the new HUD Health Act compliant Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which has been in place for less than a month and their efforts to design a Coordinated Entry System (CES). BTG members are being trained on the

common assessment tool, VI-SPDAT. They are also working with the respective county governments to facilitate case conferencing. BTG is preparing for the annual Point In Time (PIT) count in late January.

- r. Andrew Dahlburg provided an update on behalf of the VA. He thanked those who participated on the recent Veteran Stand-down which over 100 veterans attended. He shared that the stand-down and the Landlord Summit are examples of the great things that can happen when agencies work together. He announced that the Veterans Treatment Courts are looking for mentors statewide. He also announced that the VA will again be sponsoring "Housing First" Technical Assistance provided by Housing Innovations to reinforce the focus on permanent housing as the solution to homelessness. He reminded the council that the next "25 Cities" sustainability review will be held on January 21 and 22, 2016, facilitated by Community Solutions. This is the 7th sustainability review convened in Honolulu since October 2013 the fruits of which include the selection and implementation of the common assessment tool (VI-SPDAT), coordinated outreach, and case conferencing. He shared that Cloudbreak will be developing an additional 50 permanent housing units at USVETS in Kalaeloa, targeted to be on line by the end of 2016.
- s. Mark Chandler provided an update on behalf of HUD. Mark shared that the continuum of care competition cycle was recently completed and Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) applications are now in the evaluation and scoring stage. He informed the council that HUD just announced a new final rule on the definition of Chronic Homeless which will be effective in January 2016. He introduced Emily Cooper and Gina Schaak, of Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), who are in town to provide another round of HUD HEARTH Act Compliance Technical Assistance to PIC and BTG.
- t. Dave Rolf provided an update as the representative of the business community. He stated that they are focusing on the development of low income and affordable housing. His group has convened a couple of meetings and he will have a more comprehensive report in March.

Chair Morishige thanked the members for their updates and outlined the common themes which are:

- Statewide, in every county, there is a focus on bringing more housing inventory on line to meet the demand that we see in the community;
- The need for coordinated assessment and emphasis on data, both at the provider and agency levels; and
- That we are looking at how we can better utilize available resources such as Medicaid.

He stated that updates from the HICH membership will be a standing item on upcoming meeting agendas to facilitate opportunities for members to see points of intersection and alignment of efforts.

7. 11:20 am Chair Morishige opened the floor to HICH members who had questions on the updates presented.

Representative Jordan had questions for the DOE regarding how they "identify" a child as homeless and when they anticipate implementing the part time teachers in shelters program. DOE representative Farmer explained that disclosure of homeless status is voluntary and due to privacy issues DOE cannot ask students if they are homeless. Ms. Farmer shared that the department has liaisons in the field, in shelters, in encampments, etc. who are the connection back to the school. She also stated that the DOE hopes to hire part time teachers in early 2016 to provide support to students in shelters.

Maude Cumming had a question for the DOE regarding whether free transportation is provided to homeless children who live within 1 mile of school. Ms. Farmer replied that bus passes are provided to all homeless students and a free bus pass is also provided to their parent and/ or guardian if the student is less than 10 years old. Ms. Farmer offered to check with transportation and confirm that the 1 mile threshold does not apply to homeless students at the next HICH meeting.

Lynn Fallin had a question for Greg Payton regarding the definition of "Housing First" model referenced on the PIC handout and how the term is being used, i.e. for policy framework or program framework or? Mr. Payton stated that PIC receives competitive HUD funding based on the Evidence Based Practice and guidance from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).

Representative Jordan asked for data regarding the homeless population identified in Kakaako. Specifically, how many of the individuals and families placed in shelter, transitional housing or permanent housing are still sheltered or housed? She also asked what the plan is for meeting the needs of the unsheltered individuals and families who remain in Kakaako? Chair Morishige stated that the focus is on permanent successful housing and consistent collection of data to inform future policy decisions and communicate the successes and lessons learned.

8. 11:35 am Updates from HICH Working Groups. Chair Morishige moved to the next item on the agenda and called upon the leaders of each work group to give a brief update on the purpose of the group and any highlights of their work. He also made an appeal to the crowd to sign up to participate in one or more of the work groups at the conclusion of the meeting.
 - a. Work Group 1: Strengthen Data Collection / Statewide Outreach. Greg Payton talked about some items that fall into this category such as the upcoming Point In Time Count and lessons learned from HUD NOFA application and the intersection between data and the legislative priorities. The data points out specific areas of focus such as success and recidivism rates, employment outcomes and progress toward sustainability. He also talked about DOE data and service provider connection with homeless youth. The working group will be working on graphic representations and tools for communication of goals and progress. Director Wong recognized Mr. Payton for his voluntary leadership of PIC and the accomplishments achieved during his tenure which is expiring.
 - b. Work Group 2: Landlord Outreach and Education. Deja Ostrowski stated that she looks forward to working with the group to emphasis permanent housing solutions, engage landlords and new community stakeholders. She informed the council that over 300 attended a Landlord Summit on O'ahu in November and that similar Landlord Summits will be convened across the state in the next few months.
 - c. Work Group 3: Develop Transitional Housing for Homeless Families. Lori Tshako stated that the title of the working group is misleading since the goal is not to create more emergency shelter capacity or transitional housing but rather to focus on better use of existing shelter inventory, reduce the need to develop additional temporary solutions, improve outcomes and hasten the placement of individuals and families in permanent housing.
 - d. Work Group 4: Develop Medical Respite & Prison Re-Entry Program & Foster Youth Aging Out of System. Director Wong shared that this work group will be looking at populations who are moving through or out of systems or care settings to assure improved health and stability from a Systems approach.
9. 11:47 am Update from the Governor's Leadership team on Homelessness. Chair Morishige provided a 1 page progress report. (see attached handout).

10. 11:50 am Public Testimony Chair Morishige opened the floor for public testimony, 2 individuals spoke.
 - a. Michael Peacock testified that a recent news story pointed out a missed opportunity when a homeless individual was taken into custody for violating park rules without connecting him to the Behavioral Health or Homeless Service Provider Communities. He encouraged an examination of policies that may not be best serving our community and the basic human needs of it's' less fortunate members.
 - b. Betty Lou Larson encouraged the council to consider who has the voice for those living below 30% of Area Median Income especially as new housing is developed. She recommended advocating for this outlying demographic cohort, which includes homeless and those who are at risk of becoming homeless, as housing is developed.
11. 12:00 pm Fourth Order of Business: Adjournment. Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to Adjourn was made by Lori Tshako and Seconded by Brigadier General Logan. Chair Morishige called the question. The motion passed unanimously.