

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

March 20, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Council Attendees:

Mr. Scott Morishige	Chair
Ms. Bridget Holthus for	Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS)
Mr. Harold Brackeen III	Administrator of the Homeless Programs Office of DHS
Ms. Lynn Fallin for	Director of the Department of Health (DOH)
Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for	Director of the Department of Public Safety
Ms. Lindsey Doi for	Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
Brigadier General Bruce Oliveira for	Adjutant General of the Department of Defense
Ms. Melissa Lewis for	Attorney general
Ms. Tobi Portner for	Superintendent of Education
Senator Josh Green	Hawaii State Senate
Ms. Sarah Beamer for	Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Mr. Marc Alexander for	Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu
Mr. Lance Niimi for	Mayor of the County of Hawaii
Ms. Kanani Fu for	Mayor of the County of Kauai
Ms. Carol Reimann for	Mayor of the County of Maui
Ms. Jennifer Stasch	Continuum of Care for the City & County of Honolulu, Partners In Care
Ms. Brandee Menino	Continuum of Care for the County of Hawaii, Bridging the Gap
Mr. Mark Chandler (by phone)	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development
Mr. Andrew Dahlburg	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Pastor Daniel Kaneshiro	Faith-Based Representative
Mr. Dave Rolf	Business Community

Absent: Representatives from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; State House of Representatives; Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai; Continuum of Care for the County of Maui

Staff: Ms. Tamah-Lani Noh, Community Engagement Specialist; Ms. Julie Ford, Public Affairs Specialist; Mr. Eric Lopez, Homelessness Assistant; Ms. Ipo Paia, Administrative Assistant on Homelessness; Ms. Andrea Suzuki, Deputy Attorney General

Special Guests: Mr. Jay Parasco, City & County of Honolulu; Ms. Heather Pierucki, Helping Hands Hawaii; Ms. Rona Fukumoto, Catholic Charities Hawaii; Mr. Matt Olsson, HomeBase (by phone); Ms. Mary McGrail, HomeBase (by phone); Mr. Eddie Mersereau, Department of Health.

- I. **Call to Order, Taking of the Roll.** Roll taken and there was a quorum established with 18 out of 27 members. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 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 Eric Lopez, who was recently hired as Homelessness Assistant and began on March 1, 2017. Eric will be responsible for administrative and scheduling duties for the Chair and staff.

The Chair welcomed new council members Mr. Marc Alexander and Mr. Lance Niimi. Mr. Alexander has been designated by Mayor Kirk Caldwell to represent the City & County of Honolulu. Mr. Niimi has been designated by Mayor Harry Kim to represent the County of Hawaii.

At 10:09 a.m., Ms. Beamer joined the meeting.

At 10:18 a.m., Ms. Maesaka-Hirata joined the meeting.

At 10:30 a.m., Mr. Chandler joined the meeting by telephone.

- 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 Mr. Rolf and seconded by Senator Green. 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 December 12, 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 December 12, 2016, Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Rolf and seconded by Ms. Portner. 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 expressed the need to continue conversation in regard to the Coordinated Entry system, and about coordination of communications on homeless issues. Mr. Peacock mentioned the need to keep Coordinated Entry as a top priority, and mentioned a recent news article where media coverage of homelessness had appeared to be largely negative. Mr. Peacock specifically mentioned the need to maintain positive media coverage

related to homeless issues.

The Chair acknowledged Mr. Peacock's concerns, and explained that the Coordinated Entry was placed as an agenda item for this meeting because of its importance to the work of this 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 and the Nanakuli Neighborhood Board. Ms. Rezentes expressed concern about the need for better coordination between the State and the City & County of Honolulu in regard to homeless enforcement actions. She noted that she has been contacting the City & County of Honolulu for over one year to request enforcement of illegal encampments on the Leeward Coast.

The Chair acknowledged Ms. Rezentes' concerns, and noted that his office has been in communication with Mr. Alexander and his staff at the City & County of Honolulu. The Chair shared that the State and City & County of Honolulu are partnering not only in matters related to enforcement, but also partnering to bring additional homeless resources online. The Chair cited the example of a City project on Halona St. that was accelerated through the Governor's emergency proclamation to address homelessness.

V. New Business

a. Discussion and possible action regarding the formation of a working group pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to support the implementation of a Coordinated Entry System (CES) to comply with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements.

The Chair provided background for the council. A key goal of the Council's ten year plan to end homelessness is the re-tooling of the crisis response to homelessness through formal adoption and implementation of a CES for housing and homeless services. HUD has also established CES as a key goal, and has set a deadline for all communities to implement CES by February 2018. The Chair invited members Ms. Stasch and Ms. Menino to provide an update on the efforts of the Continua of Care (CoCs) to implement Coordinated Entry, and specifically on the need to identify mainstream "access points" as the CES continues to be implemented statewide.

Presentation by Ms. Stasch (Partners in Care) and Ms. Menino (Bridging the Gap)

Ms. Menino and Ms. Stasch began by introducing themselves. They presented information on the efforts to implement CES on Oahu, as well as on the neighbor islands.

Ms. Menino began by explaining the role of Bridging the Gap as the CoC for the neighbor islands. She mentioned that Bridging the Gap consists of a strong partnership between county government and homeless service providers. Each County has hired or designated specific county-level staff to support the implementation of the CES for the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai. In addition, Ms. Menino shared that updates to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) have already occurred, and that training on resource matching for the CES will be conducted at the next Bridging the Gap meeting on April 3, 2017.

Ms. Stasch shared information about Partners in Care, which serves as the CoC for the City & County of Honolulu. Ms. Stasch said that Partners in Care is learning from the implementation of CES on the neighbor islands, and that the timeline for Partners in Care is for CES to start with early implementation in May 2017. Ms. Stasch noted that Partners in Care will fine tune the CES process in the winter, and intends to have a fully operational CES by February 2018.

Ms. Stasch added that there are three portals of entry to be matched into housing any homeless services in the CES: (1) 2-1-1, (2) Street Outreach, and (3) Emergency and Transitional Shelter. Ms. Stasch also noted that Partners in Care is looking to implement separate CES systems for homeless youth and victims of domestic violence, and intends to have these systems also in place by February 2018.

Discussion

Chair Morishige noted that Mr. Matt Olsson and Ms. McGrail from HomeBase, a HUD technical assistance provider, are available by telephone to assist in answering any questions from the council.

Senator Green asked how many of the homeless services in the CES are not HUD-based. Specifically, Senator Green inquired how homeless services can be integrated with healthcare services that benefit persons experiencing homelessness.

Ms. Stasch replied that Partners in Care is engaging in conversations with healthcare providers to ensure that these services are included in the CES. Chair Morishige added, for a point of clarification, that the DHS Med-QUEST Administrator and the Chair have also been engaging in conversations with the five health plans to discuss intersection between healthcare and homeless services.

Ms. Fallin asked whether the CES addresses the needs of homeless individuals who refuse services.

Ms. Menino responded that street outreach providers will make repeated efforts to engage with these individuals. If the individual is unwilling to accept services, they will not be added into the CES. However, Ms.

Menino stated that State contracts for street outreach have recently been amended to include a specific focus on service resistant individuals, and the current contracts stress that repeated efforts be made to connect these individuals to the CES.

Ms. Fallin shared that data from the Hawaii State Hospital indicates that between 60-70% of the population served are homeless. The DOH notes that the numbers for recidivism among this population are high, and the Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) is piloting new approaches to serve this population and reduce recidivism rates. Examples of AMHD efforts to address this population are shared in the DOH written report.

The Chair suggested that the permitted interaction group consist of the following: Chair or his designee; a representative from Partners in Care; a representative from Bridging the Gap; a representative from DLIR; a representative from DOD; a representative from DOE; a representative from PSD; a representative from HPHA; a representative from DOH; and a representative from the VA.

Motion to establish a permitted interaction group pursuant to H.R.S. §92-2.5 to support the implementation of a CES to comply with HUD requirements.

Ms. Menino made a motion for adoption, which was seconded by Ms. Reimann. The proposed members of the permitted interaction group at the Chair or his designee; a representative from Partners in Care; a representative from Bridging the Gap; a representative from DLIR; a representative from DOD; a representative from DOE; a representative from PSD; a representative from HPHA; a representative from DOH; and a representative from the VA.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion. Seeing none, the Chair called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion regarding the formation of a communications hui related to homelessness.

The Chair provided background, and shared that outside of the meetings of this council, staff has spent time working in the community to build partnerships with other government agencies and nonprofit providers that support efforts to address homelessness on an ongoing basis. This morning, the Chair has invited guests to highlight on specific aspect of this work related to communications and building capacity in this area. The Chair invited Special Assistant Ms. Ford and special guests Mr. Parasco, Ms. Pierucki, and Ms. Fukumoto to present to the full council.

Presentation by Ms. Ford, Mr. Parasco (City & County of Honolulu), Ms. Pierucki (Helping Hands Hawaii), and Ms. Fukumoto (Catholic Charities Hawaii).

Ms. Ford introduced herself, and explained the background behind the formation of the Hawaii interagency homeless communications hui. She then introduced Mr. Parasco, Ms. Fukumoto, and Ms. Pierucki respectively.

Mr. Parasco, Ms. Fukumoto, and Ms. Pierucki presented a power point to the council. The presentation covered the following: members of the hui, the role of the hui, the reason for formation of the hui, and gave example of result of the hui's work. Specifically, the hui highlighted the development of a new radio show with Rick Hamada that will be featured every Wednesday, starting with an official launch on April 5, 2017 from 7:00-8:00 a.m. The hui also provided three specific examples of positive media coverage that resulted from the hui's efforts.

Discussion.

Ms. Menino asked if the media efforts of the hui could focus on the role of coordinated entry from a statewide perspective.

The Chair responded that the hui highlights coordinated entry through stories regarding the intersection between street outreach and enforcement. The Chair noted that street outreach is a primary access point for CES.

Mr. Dahlburg noted that the VA also has a radio show with Rick Hamada on Saturday mornings. Mr. Dahlburg asked if the hui planned to focus efforts on addressing a potential increase in homeless numbers during the 2017 point in time count, and potential adverse reaction to an increase in numbers.

Ms. Ford responded that the hui is meeting with Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap to plan a rollout of the 2017 point in time count numbers.

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 HICH structure and make recommendations.**

The Chair provided an update from the group for the full council. At the December 12, 2016 regular meeting, the Chair shared that the National Governors Association (NGA) had been in contact regarding additional technical assistance to address governance issues and HICH structure. After continued discussion with the NGA, the Chair has decided to utilize NGA resources for a visit in May 2017 to Houston, Texas. The Houston CoC has widely been cited as one of the most effective in the nation. The Chair has reached out to the DHS Homeless Programs Office, City & County of Honolulu, Partners in Care, and Bridging the Gap to discuss sending a delegation to Houston in May 2017.

The Chair also reported that a homeless funders hui – formed out of discussions of the PIG – has continued to meet since December 2016. The

fundere group includes DHS, DOH, Aloha United Way, Hawaii Community Foundation, City & County of Honolulu, Partners in Care, and Bridging the Gap. The discussions of the fundere group has strengthened communications and alignment between the public and private fundere involved, and has assisted in identifying opportunities for future investment (e.g. investment in the HMIS and data sharing).

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 requested that permitted interaction group (PIG) members Mr. Mersereau and Mr. Parasco provide an update from the group for the full council.

Mr. Mersereau shared that DOH has extended the current service date through July 31, 2017. He also noted that DOH is working with the Chair to secure general funds for bridge funding, while the DHS Med-QUEST Division continues to work on an amendment for the 1115 Medicaid waiver.

Mr. Parasco shared that the City & County of Honolulu and DOH have partnered with Helping Hands Hawaii, Catholic Charities Hawaii, and Mental Health Kokua to house 30 clients from HPP who are long-term chronically homeless individuals. The State and City are on-track to house all 30 clients by March 30, 2017.

c. Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to review and provide support for the 2017 homeless point in time count.

The Chair requested that PIG member Ms. Stasch provide an update from the group for the full council.

Ms. Stasch shared that there was very positive turnout in terms of volunteer support for the 2017 point in time count. She noted that data entry from the point in time count surveys has been completed, and that staff are in the process of cleaning and analyzing the data. Ms. Stasch anticipates that the 2017 statewide point in time count report should be released in April 2017.

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 January and February 2017."

The Chair noted a key highlight is the annual Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness report to the 2017 Legislature. The report details the council's progress towards the goals established in the ten-year plan to end homelessness.

The Chair also provided brief updates on the status of legislation, and requests included in the Executive Budget for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium.

- B. Pursuant to H.R.S. §346-382(a)(13), the Council requests that the Speaker of the Hawaii State House of Representatives designate two members of the House of Representatives to serve on the council, of whom one member shall be designated to serve as an alternative member on the council in the other member's absence.

Chair Morishige acknowledged that no designation letters had yet been received.

- C. Pursuant to H.R.S. §346-382(a)(14), the Council requests that the President of the Hawaii State Senate designate two members of the Senate to serve on the council, of whom one member shall be designated to serve as an alternative member on the council in the other member's absence.

Chair Morishige acknowledged that, per Senator Green, a designation letter had been signed to appoint Senator Green as one of the two members designated by the Senate to serve on the council.

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

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

Ms. Menino clarified that the report she submitted was on behalf of Bridging the Gap, and not on behalf of the Hawaii County CoC.

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, June 19, 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 Ms. Portner. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes prepared by:



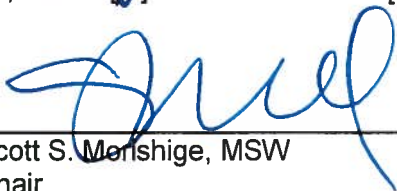
Tamah-Lani Noh



Date

Community Engagement Specialist

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at their Regular Meeting on June 19, 2017: As Presented As Amended



Scott S. Mershige, MSW
Chair

6/19/17

Date