

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)
Honolulu International Airport Conference Rooms 3 & 4
October 17, 2016
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Council Attendees:

Scott Morishige	Chair
Bridget Holthus for	Director of the Department of Human Services
Harold Brackeen III	Administrator of the Homeless Programs Office
Virginia Pressler	Director of the Department of Health
Linda Chu Takayama	Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Renee Sonobe-Hong for	Director of the Department of Public Safety
Kamana'o Mills for	Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission
Bruce Oliveira for	Adjutant General of the Department of Defense
Douglas Chin	Attorney General
Toby Portner for	Superintendent of the Department of Education
Suzanne Chun Oakland	Hawaii State Senate
Jo Jordan	Hawaii State House of Representatives
Hakim Ouansafi	Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Jun Yang for	Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu
Clarysse Nunokawa for	Mayor of the County of Hawaii
Kanani Fu for	Mayor of the County of Kauai
Jennifer Stasch	Continuum of Care for the City & County of Honolulu, Partners In Care
Maude Cumming	Continuum of Care for the County of Maui, Bridging the Gap
Brandee Menino	Continuum of Care for the County of Hawaii, Bridging the Gap
Andrew Dahlburg	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Mark Chandler	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development

Absent:

Representatives from the Department of Business, Economic, Development & Tourism; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; County of Hawaii; Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai; Faith-based Community; and Business Community.

Staff:

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

Special Guests:

Andrea Suzuki, Deputy Attorney General; Piper Ehlen, HomeBase; Matt Olsson, HomeBase; Jason Green-Lowe, HomeBase; Iain De Jong, OrgCode Consulting, Inc.; Nani Medeiros, HomeAid Hawaii

- I. **Call to Order, Taking of the Roll.** Roll taken, quorum established with 15 out of 27 members, and the meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by the Chair.

Chair Morishige introduced the members of his staff – Tamah-Lani Noh, Julie Haruki, and Ipo Paia. The Chair stated that Ms. Paia joined his office on September 1, 2016 and is the primary point of contact for constituent concerns. The staff can be reached by phone at 586-0193 or by e-mail at gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov.

The Chair recognized five special guests: Ms. Piper Ehlen, Mr. Matt Olsson, and Mr. Jason Green-Lowe from HomeBase; Mr. Iain De Jong from OrgCode Consulting; and Ms. Nani Medeiros from HomeAid Hawaii.

The Chair recognized Council member Ms. Clarysse Nunokawa who represents Mayor William Kenoi on the Council and will be departing due to the change in administration.

The Chair recognized Director Pankaj Bhanot and Deputy Director Bridget Holthus who will be representing the Department of Human Services on the council.

At 10:15 a.m. members Mr. Jun Yang, Ms. Toby Portner, and Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland joined the meeting.

- II. **Overview and Approval of Agenda.** The Chair presented the agenda and asked to move item VI. "New Business" out of order, and consider this item prior to discussion on item V. "Permitted Interaction Group Reports."

Motion to approve the agenda with the above noted changes was made by Director Pressler and seconded by Mr. Ouansafi. 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 August 29, 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 corrections. 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 testified in support of peer recovery services. He noted that he has been homeless for five years, and attributed his transition to housing as a result of efforts by Mr. Dahlburg and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Mr. Peacock stated that his organization has been working with the Department of Health, Adult Mental Health Division to support the Peer Support curriculum used by the VA. Mr. Peacock expressed his organization's willingness to prepare individuals in the community for peer specialist training.

b. Ms. Heather Lusk, The CHOW Project.

Ms. Lusk testified in regards to the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) project, which is a pre-booking diversion pilot program developed with the community to address low-level drug and prostitution crimes. LEAD has been successfully implemented in Seattle and other communities, and there have been a series of local discussions involving participation from Partners in Care and other homeless service providers. Ms. Lusk testified for the need to replicate the LEAD project locally.

V. New Business.

a. Discussion and possible action regarding the adoption of a resolution requesting the Hawaii State Legislature, City and County Councils, and Hawaii's Continua of Care to utilize the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness to guide the formulation of policies and programming to address homelessness.

Chair Morishige provided background information regarding this action item. On August 29, 2016, the council adopted the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness. The framework was developed with the input of service providers, government agencies, funders, and other key stakeholders. During conversations about the framework with stakeholders, it was suggested that the framework be shared not only with the general community, but specifically with legislative bodies – including the state legislature and county councils – so that policy could better align between the legislative and executive branches. Specifically, a key element of the state framework is the concept of a coordinated entry system that focuses on permanent housing as the end goal for homeless persons. To assist the council members in their deliberations, the Chair invited special guests Ms. Ehlen, Mr. Olsson, and Mr. Green-Lowe from HomeBase, as well as Mr. De Jong from OrgCode Consulting to share information about local efforts related to the development of a coordinated entry system, and what is needed to sustain these efforts.

The presentation by HomeBase and OrgCode Consulting, Inc. will be followed by a presentation from representatives of the Continua of Care relating to the 2016 Continuum of Care program competition and priorities, and their alignment with the State Framework to Address Homelessness.

Presentation by HomeBase (Ms. Piper Ehlen, Mr. Matt Olsson, and Mr. Jason Green-Lowe) and OrgCode Consulting, Inc. (Mr. Iain De Jong).

Ms. Ehlen began by introducing herself and her colleagues. She noted that HomeBase is a technical assistance provider contracted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The focus of her organization's technical assistance efforts in Hawaii is the development of a coordinated entry system, and how coordinated entry will assist in local efforts to address homelessness. Ms. Ehlen also introduced Mr. De Jong from OrgCode

Consulting, Inc. and explained that he would begin the presentation by reviewing key principles related to coordinated entry.

Mr. De Jong explained that a key challenge in addressing homelessness is that there often is no coordinated approach for matching the right person/family to the right resource in the right order. Generally, case managers have had to work around the system, not through the existing system in order to achieve results for their clients. Coordinated entry is an approach intended to better connect the emergency side of the homeless service delivery system to the solution side.

As part of the coordinated entry process, a community needs to establish priorities for allocation of housing resources, and must have a transparent process and requirements for how to access these resources. In addition, the community should agree upon a common assessment tool – in Hawaii, this tool is the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT).

Mr. De Jong emphasized that, while a coordinated entry system is important, the system alone will not address all affordable housing access issues in the community and should not be expected to resolve pressure points in the system (e.g. lack of services, discharge planning, etc.).

Finally, Mr. DeJong identified key issues that will need to be addressed in developing Hawaii's coordinated entry system: (1) the system should be statewide; (2) Capacity of the HMIS should be evaluated; (3) the relationship between Compact of Free Association (COFA) migration issues and homelessness should be further explored; (4) A system should be put in place for inter-jurisdictional leadership between the CoCs, counties, and state; and (5) a sustainable source of funding for coordinated entry needs to be identified.

Ms. Ehlen then continued the presentation by reviewing past and current efforts to develop a coordinated entry system in Hawaii. Specifically, she highlighted efforts to design coordinated entry for homeless veterans, as well as the selection of the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) as the common assessment tool for all homeless populations. In addition, Ms. Ehlen noted that Hawaii has also piloted a case conferencing process on the island of Oahu to facilitate coordinated entry for unsheltered persons, and that both Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap have adopted formal policy and procedures for coordinated entry.

Ms. Ehlen explained that over the next several months, HomeBase will be working together with other technical assistance providers – such as OrgCode – to fully implement coordinated entry on a statewide basis. Other technical assistance providers that will be involved in this effort include TAC, ICF, and Community Solutions. To facilitate coordination, HomeBase and other technical assistance partners regularly participate in a monthly call to share information and coordinate roles and responsibilities.

10:40 a.m. – Ms. Nunokawa and Ms. Menino joined the meeting.

Presentation by representatives of the Continuum of Care (Jennifer Stasch, Partners in Care and Maude Cumming, Family Life Center)

Ms. Stasch introduced herself as Director of Partners in Care (PIC), Oahu's Continuum of Care. Ms. Stasch provided information regarding PIC's application for federal homeless funding, and stated that the application emphasized permanent housing, and specifically increasing permanent housing options for the chronically homeless.

Ms. Cumming also introduced herself as the outgoing Chair of Bridging the Gap (BTG), the Continuum of Care for the Balance of State. Ms. Cumming stated that BTG's application for federal funding also emphasized permanent housing. In addition, Ms. Cumming stated that BTG made the difficult decision to prioritize permanent housing programs over other programs, such as supportive services. Ms. Cumming added that BTG's membership includes participation from the Counties of Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai to ensure that BTG funding aligns with funding priorities at the County level.

Ms. Stasch and Ms. Cumming both stated that the funding priorities of PIC and BTG respectively appear in alignment with the State Framework to Address Homelessness.

Discussion.

Director Pressler asked a question regarding the sharing of data sharing. Specifically, in regards to the possibility of data matching between the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and healthcare data sets.

Ms. Ehlen responded that the State has begun to look at ways to move towards data matching as a result of technical assistance received through the Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP). Ms. Ehlen noted that the use of data and the HMIS play a key role in implementation of a fully functioning coordinated entry system.

Senator Chun Oakland asked if a listing of affordable housing units could be included as part of the coordinated entry system. Senator Chun Oakland emphasized the need to focus on homelessness prevention, in addition to directly addressing homelessness. She also noted that vacation rentals, and the impact on affordable housing inventory should also be considered.

Ms. Ehlen responded that the State's Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI) contract with Aloha United Way includes the development of a landlord listing, as well as the use of a homeless assessment tool to both address homelessness directly as well as prevention.

Mr. Yang stated that it is important to focus on front end coordination, and agreed with Senator Chun Oakland on the need to identify affordable housing units. Mr.

Yang asked when would conversations begin with the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) regarding the prioritization of affordable rental units for specific populations, such as homeless veterans.

Ms. Ehlen responded that the coordinated entry system is a means in which to direct homeless persons entering the system to the appropriate level of services to meet their need. She added that coordinated entry is not a "silver bullet," and that the coordinated entry process will need to acknowledge Hawaii's limited stock of housing inventory.

Chair Morishige emphasized again that the CSHI contract with Aloha United Way does include the development of a statewide listing of landlords with available inventory. In addition, Governor Ige has set a housing production goal of 10,000 new housing units by 2020, which includes the involvement of HHFDC, HPHA, the Hawaii Community Development Authority, and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. While the coordinated entry system is intended to streamline the delivery of homeless services, the State's broader framework to address homelessness does include an emphasis on affordable housing development.

Motion to adopt a resolution requesting the Hawaii State Legislature, City and County Councils, and Hawaii's Continua of Care to utilize the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness to guide the formulation of policies and programming to address homelessness. (Vote)

Mr. Mills made the motion.

Director Ouansafi suggested an amendment to ask that the resolution emphasize the importance of homelessness prevention. Senator Chun Oakland noted that she agreed with this suggestion.

Chair Morishige called for discussion on the motion. Mr. Yang raised a point of clarification that the motion had not been seconded.

The Chair consulted with Deputy Attorney General Suzuki. Deputy Attorney General Suzuki clarified that the Chair could call for a second or the motion could be withdrawn, and a friendly amendment could be made to add the emphasis on homelessness prevention.

Mr. Mills withdrew his original motion, and made a new motion to include an emphasis on homelessness prevention in the resolution. Senator Chun Oakland seconded.

Chair Morishige called the question. There was no discussion. The motion passed with 20 members voting in the affirmative and Representative Jordan abstaining.

b. Discussion regarding private sector efforts to address homelessness.

Chair Morishige explained that private sector partnerships are a critical component of the State's efforts to address homelessness. The Chair has invited Ms. Nani Medeiros, Executive Director of HomeAid Hawaii, to share information about her organization and how it engages the private sector to assist in addressing homelessness locally.

Presentation by Ms. Nani Medeiros, Executive Director, HomeAid Hawaii.

Ms. Medeiros introduced herself, and stated that she is an active member of the Board of Directors of HPHA and the Institute for Human Services (I.H.S.). She added that the issue of homelessness is a personal one for her, and that she has family members that have personally experienced homelessness.

Ms. Medeiros shared information regarding HomeAid Hawaii, which is a program that engages private industry to assist with repair and maintenance for homeless shelter facilities. HomeAid is also actively involved in education and advocacy efforts related to housing and homelessness, and regularly participates in community forums and other events.

Ms. Medeiros circulated HomeAid Hawaii's Annual Report and provided examples of three recent projects, which included Tutu Bert's House, the renovation of the Hale Kipa Youth Drop-in Center, and roof repair at the Next Step shelter.

Finally, Ms. Medeiros noted that the Hawaii Chapter of HomeAid is one of 18 chapters nationwide. HomeAid has a number of upcoming projects planned for 2017, which include I.H.S. roof repair, renovations at Mental Health Kookia, and a mobile hygiene center project.

Discussion.

Ms. Borja asked that HomeAid contact Partners in Care to collaborate, if the primary purpose of HomeAid is to address homelessness.

Ms. Medeiros thanked Ms. Borja for her suggestion. She added that, through partnership with building contractors, HomeAid is able to achieve a 90% cost-savings for non-profit homeless providers.

Senator Chun Oakland asked if HomeAid would be able to partner with the Department of Public Safety or DHS, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), and utilize individuals coming out of prison as laborers for upcoming construction projects. She noted that for the past five administrations, she has asked if the Department of Public Safety can focus on employment opportunities for people exiting prison. She provided a recent example of homeless individuals in the Chinatown area who have received training in power washing and started their own private business.

Ms. Medeiros replied that HomeAid can only utilize licensed contractors.

VI. Permitted Interaction Group Reports

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.

Chair Morishige provided an update from the permitted interaction group, which met on September 21, 2016. The meeting was attended by Chair Morishige, Representative Jordan, Ms. Stasch, Ms. Cumming, Ms. Reimann, Ms. Lila King (on behalf of DHS Director Pankaj Bhanot), and staff member Ms. Noh. Senator Chun Oakland was unable to attend the meeting. A summary of the group discussion and minutes is included in Council members' meeting packet.

Discussion.

There was no further discussion on this item.

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).

Chair Morishige provided an update from the permitted interaction group, which met on September 29, 2016. The meeting was attended by Chair Morishige, Mr. Edward Mersereau (on behalf of DOH Director Ginny Pressler), Ms. Stasch, Ms. Cumming, and staff member Ms. Noh. Ms. Judy Mohr Peterson (on behalf of DHS Director Pankaj Bhanot) was unable to attend the meeting. A summary of the group discussion and minutes is included in Council members' meeting packet.

Discussion.

Mr. Yang asked if the Hawaii Pathways Project clients could utilize the coordinated entry system to obtain housing. Mr. Yang noted that CoC permanent housing (formerly known as "Shelter Plus Care") providers have resources, but it is unclear how we can encourage these providers to participate.

Chair Morishige and Ms. Stasch responded that it is important for the Hawaii Pathways Project and others to work together with PIC as part of the coordinated entry process.

VII. General Announcements

A. Chairperson and staff reports: September/October 2016 Status Report.

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

The Chair noted that the Governor's emergency proclamation to address homelessness will expire on October 19, 2016. He stated that this will be the final extension of the

emergency proclamation, and it is necessary for the state to move forward with a longer-term strategy to address homelessness.

The Chair also noted the opening of the Family Assessment Center in Kakaako as another key highlight. The FAC was at full capacity in less than two weeks following its opening.

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

The Chair stated that there are currently two vacant seats on the council, and requested the Mayors of the Counties of Hawaii and Kauai to designate a representative of the continuum of care programs for their respective counties to fill these two vacant seats.

C. Written Reports from Council Members.

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

Mr. Brackeen III noted that DHS will be releasing new Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for homeless services, including shelter, outreach, housing first, and rapid re-housing. Interested applicants should refer to the State Procurement Office website for more information.

VIII. **Executive Session.** The Chair explained that a new item to the agenda was added to allow the council to enter into executive session if needed. The Chair stated that there is no reason to enter into executive session at this time.

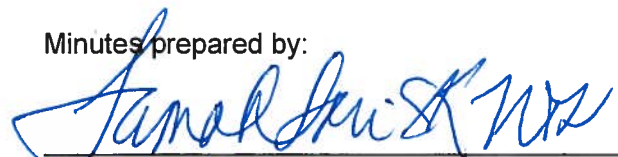
IX. **Topics for Upcoming Meetings.** The Chair asked the members if there were any additional suggestions for topics for the upcoming meeting. There was no further discussion.

X. **Meeting Schedule.** The Chair reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2016. Both meetings 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 to adjourn was made by Director Pressler and seconded by Director Ouansafi. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 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
December 12, 2016: [] As Presented [] As Amended



Scott S. Morishige, MSW
Chair

12/12/16
Date