

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)
Honolulu International Airport Conference Rooms 3 & 4
Monday, June 17, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Council Attendees:

Mr. Scott Morishige	Chair
Ms. Daisy Lynn Hartsfield for Mr. Harold Brackeen III	Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Administrator of the Homeless Programs Office of DHS
Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for Mr. Craig Hirai	Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD) Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT)
Ms. Cynthia Rezentes for	Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)
Mr. Eddie Mersereau for Mr. Bruce Oliveira for	Director of the Department of Health (DOH) Adjutant General of the Department of Defense (DOD)
Ms. Melissa Lewis for Senator Russell Ruderman	Attorney General Hawaii State Senate
Mr. Marc Alexander for	Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu
Mr. Christopher Kish for	Mayor of the County of Maui
Ms. Sharon Hirota for	Mayor of the County of Hawaii
Ms. Toby Portner for	Superintendent of Department of Education (DOE)
Ms. Brandee Menino	Continuum of Care for the County of Hawaii
Ms. Connie Mitchell	Continuum of Care for the County of Honolulu
Mr. Mark Chandler	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Office of Community Planning & Development
Mr. Andy Taylor	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Mr. Dave Rolf	Business Community Representative

Absent:

Director of the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations;
Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Representative from
the Hawaii House of Representatives; Executive Director of the
Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Mayor of the County of Kauai;
Representative for the Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai;
Representative for the Continuum of Care for the County of Maui;
and Faith-Based Representative.

Staff:

Mr. Justin Limasa, Homelessness Assistant; Mr. Randy Gonce,
Homelessness Administrative Assistant; Mr. Jason Kasamoto,
Homelessness Special Assistant and Public Affairs; Ms. Emma
Grochowsky, Homelessness Community Development
Specialist; Ms. Lily Young, Deputy Attorney General

Special Guests:

Mr. James Koshiba, Hui Aloha; Mr. Alani Apio, Hui Aloha; Mr.
James Pakele, Puuhonua O Waianae; Ms. Twinkle Borge,
Puuhonua O Waianae; Ms. Heather Lusk, Partners in Care;
Ms. Heather Henderson, Collaborative Quality Consulting

- 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 10:08 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 requested members of the public to present their questions and comments on agenda items during the designated time

for public testimony, as presenters would only be able to answer questions from Council members during their presentations.

- II. **Overview and Approval of Agenda.** The Chair presented the agenda for review and recommended a revision to the order of presentations to accommodate the presenters' schedules. The Chair recommended to move item VI ahead of item V, and to reorder the presenters in item VI(a)(iii) as follows: Hui Aloha; Partners in Care; Collaborative Quality Consulting. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Mersereau and seconded by Ms. Hartsfield. 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 April 29, 2019, 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. Seeing none, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2019, Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Rolf and seconded by Mr. Alexander. 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. David Cannell**

Mr. Cannell stated that he has been attending legislative hearings and public meetings for the past decade to bring the perspective of a person with lived experience of homelessness, but is disappointed in the lack of any apparent progress. To motivate legislators and public officials to take more urgent action, Mr. Cannell suggested that each individual take a homeless family into their home and experience the struggles of helping the family to find affordable housing. Mr. Cannell called attention to the lack of inclusion from people with lived experience of homelessness in decision-making.

Chair Morishige appreciated Mr. Cannell's remarks regarding expanding the scope of focus on homelessness solutions. The Chair also noted that Hui Aloha was on the agenda to present some of their work with helping people who are unsheltered to organize and advocate.

Mr. Chandler arrived at 10:21 a.m. Quorum was revised to reflect 19 out of 27 members present.

V. **Continuing Business**

- a. **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.**

Chair Morishige discussed some of the key achievements related to creating pathways out of homelessness, including accountability for government funding of homeless programs, increasing the number of permanent supportive housing beds statewide, and increasing the number of exits from homeless programs to permanent housing.

- Mr. Alexander noted that Oahu has experienced a ten percent decrease in family homelessness, and distributed printed copies of the City & County of Honolulu's dashboards related to homelessness, shelter availability, and the City's Housing First programs.

The Chair thanked Mr. Alexander and remarked that, while significant progress has been made in certain areas, more work is necessary and additional efforts should be made to include direct input from people with lived experience of homelessness.

Presentation by Hui Aloha.

Mr. James Koshiba introduced himself as a member of Hui Aloha, a non-profit volunteer organization driven by their mission to live the aloha spirit. Mr. Koshiba also introduced co-presenter Mr. James Pakele, representing the Puuhonua O Waianae and Dynamic Community Solutions.

Mr. Koshiba discussed Hui Aloha's model for engaging encampments of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including the following key components:

- Outreach without an agenda
- Identifying leaders with strength and aloha
- Partnering to perform community projects that strengthen relationships and leadership
- Building a sense of community within the encampment
- Expanding to serve the wider community

Mr. Koshiba stated that the village model of living, which includes communal cooking and bathing facilities, is both cost-effective and sustainable. At the same time, the village model promotes community building and interdependence among residents.

Mr. Koshiba explained that this type of housing is beginning to merge with Lieutenant Governor Josh Green's proposal for Kauhale villages, which incorporate communal elements and self-governance.

Mr. Pakele emphasized the importance of having places for people to go and plans for action. Mr. Pakele also noted that the process of building strong relationships and a true sense of community among individuals in encampments can be a lengthy process, and commended Hui Aloha's ability to facilitate this work without extensive outside funding.

A sample copy of the community rules established by the Kakaako encampment was distributed to Council members. Mr. Koshiba stated that approximately 89 members of the Kakaako area had signed on to the community rules.

Discussion and Questions.

Chair Morishige asked Mr. Koshiba to share some of his historical background working with the Kakaako residents over the past several years.

- Mr. Koshiba explained that he began his engagement with the Kakaako encampment during the summer of 2015, when the camp was near its largest capacity. Mr. Koshiba brought a tent to the area and received assistance from a woman who helped him find a safe location and build trust with other residents. While many of the camps were being self-regulated, enforcement activities in Chinatown and Waikiki had resulted in new individuals coming to the area who were not a part of the established community. Shortly thereafter, media stories highlighted the increase in violent crimes in the Kakaako area, but did not account for the community that had been disrupted by the influx of individuals from other areas.

The Chair asked Mr. Koshiba if he was able to share any updates regarding Lieutenant Governor Green's initiative to look for property suitable for Kauhale housing projects in the Waimanalo and Nimitz viaduct areas.

- Mr. Koshiba stated that Lieutenant Governor Green is committed to continuing the search for properties that will meet the needs of the community, adding that the spaces will only work if there are people that want to live there and have a sense of community.

The Chair asked if Mr. Koshiba could clarify whether these projects would be permanent housing or temporary/emergency shelter.

- Mr. Koshiba stated his expectation for the projects to offer permanent housing.
- Mr. Pakele added that the projects are intended to be modeled on the Puuhonua O Waianae, which is intended to be flexible depending on the residents' circumstances.

The Chair asked Mr. Pakele if the Puuhonua O Waianae is still intending to construct more permanent structures at a new location.

- Mr. Pakele confirmed that the group intends to explore permanent structures upon securing a parcel of land.

The Chair asked the presenters how the rules established by both the Puuhonua O Waianae and Ka Poe O Kakaako might be similar or different to those of traditional shelter or housing programs.

- Mr. Pakele stated that the types of rules created by these groups generally reflect the types of behaviors expected of good neighbors (e.g. being respectful of noise at night, keeping communal areas clean, etc.). Overall, the rules are typically less restrictive than shelters.

Ms. Lewis asked how the group might decide who would be able to be admitted to the community, and what might happen to any public land that is designated for this use.

- Ms. Borge stated that her community model emphasizes diversion to other resources when possible and appropriate.
- Mr. Koshiba added that, while the members of Ka Poe O Kakaako are discussing how they will be managing themselves and potential newcomers, he believes that any land appropriated for residential use by the group would remain under jurisdiction of the original entity.

Ms. Lewis expressed concern that other communities might not be as organized as the Puuhonua O Waianae or Ka Poe O Kakaako.

- Ms. Borge stated that she recognizes that her community is not perfect and continues to work with other communities who might be experiencing challenges.
- Mr. Koshiba stated that Hui Aloha has also partnered with law enforcement in some areas to reduce criminal activity committed by others who are not affiliated with residential encampments.

Chair Morishige remarked that it is often not reasonable to expect all individuals to participate in a community building plan.

- Ms. Borge noted that despite this, Hui Aloha continues to uphold its mission of treating people like people.
- Mr. Pakele added that Hui Aloha works to inspire people to better themselves.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata asked how community members might identify leaders in an encampment, citing an incident she witnessed involving altercations with minors around the Kakaako encampment. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata further clarified that her inquiry pertained to how members of the public could identify a responsible adult at an encampment, as most people are unfamiliar with the names and faces of encampment leaders.

- Mr. Koshiha stated that several Ka Poe O Kakaako leaders have been working to increase public awareness through news media. However, residents are generally able to direct people to the leaders of the encampment if issues should arise.
- Mr. Apio remarked that Ka Poe O Kakaako did not have a clear sense of community at first, largely due to the constant disruption and trauma created by daily enforcement activities.

Chair Morishige informed Ms. Maesaka-Hirata that staff would be able to connect her to some of the identified leaders in Kakaako.

Mr. Chandler asked Hui Aloha to elaborate on the types of structures and anticipated infrastructure components to better inform funding eligibility.

- Mr. Pakele stated that the types of structures to be used are largely dependent on financing, noting that the building materials for a 10' x 20' living unit have been estimated to be around \$4,800.
- Mr. Apio added that every location will be different, and encouraged Mr. Chandler and anyone interested in learning more about design elements to speak directly with communities.

Chair Morishige asked Mr. Chandler if HUD would still consider an encampment's residents to be "literally homeless" if the community is situated on private land.

- Mr. Chandler confirmed that HUD would still consider the occupants to be homeless if they are living in places not considered suitable for human habitation.
- Mr. Koshiha stated that the encampments might prove to be useful testing grounds for sustainable infrastructure and construction.

Mr. Alexander noted that the City & County of Honolulu's building code does permit shared housing and culturally-appropriate housing with additional flexibility. Mr. Alexander stated that any proposed Kauhale housing model should be consistent with building codes. Additional information regarding the City's commitment to embracing Kauhale and culturally-appropriate housing models may be found in the Oahu Resilience Strategy, Pillar 1, Remaining Rooted, Action 3. A copy of the Oahu Resilience Strategy report will be provided to Council members and members of the public, and may be viewed online at <http://resilientoahu.org>.

Seeing no further questions, Chair Morishige thanked the presenters for their time and introduced Ms. Heather Lusk of Partners in Care.

Presentation by Ms. Heather Lusk, Partners in Care.

Ms. Lusk introduced herself as the Vice Chair of Partners in Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care. Ms. Lusk shared that PIC has recently become a 501(c)(3) organization, and was one of ten cities chosen to receive technical assistance from a HUD-contracted consultant.

Ms. Lusk discussed that Hawaii, like other West Coast states and communities, has experienced an increase in unsheltered homelessness, despite slight reductions in the overall numbers of people experiencing homelessness. The 2019 Point in Time Count conducted by PIC identified 2,401 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness on Oahu, with a majority being single adults.

To identify strategies to better serve the unsheltered population, PIC has been working with consultants from HomeBase and Cloudburst Consulting Group to create detailed systems maps for street outreach, emergency and transitional shelters, and permanent supportive housing. After creating these maps, the group identified small innovations to test.

Ms. Lusk described the first innovation as a refinement of the coordinated outreach efforts to target a specific geographic area for intensive outreach. This innovation was tested at the recent H.E.L.P. Honolulu Coordinated Outreach event on June 13th in Kakaako. Participants collected basic information from all consenting individuals, even those who did not want services, to create a "By-Name List" for the area and to later identify opportunities available to those individuals. After comparing the list of names with HMIS data and other sources, it was learned that 51 of the 52 individuals had records in HMIS. Of those individuals, 11 were on the Coordinated Entry System BNL, and four had been assigned to a housing resource. Six individuals were directly sheltered on the day of the outreach event.

Ms. Lusk stated that PIC is still developing an innovation to improve connections to non-traditional providers (e.g. health plans), but noted that the health plans have increased participation in outreach events and CES meetings.

PIC will continue weekly calls with the technical assistance providers and continue to follow up on these innovations.

Discussion and Questions.

Chair Morishige asked if efforts to identify public land for unsheltered individuals has any effect on outreach efforts from the perspective of service providers.

- Ms. Lusk affirmed that many individuals in the Kakaako area have heard of the possibility of being given a designated area to set up an encampment, and several have refused housing resources based on what they have heard.

The Chair added that one of the leaders identified in the Kakaako area had abandoned a stable housing situation after learning of the possibility of being able to establish an encampment on public land.

- Ms. Lusk stressed the importance of outreach providers continuing to maintain relationships with these individuals, as they will continue to have needs, especially if unable to receive the type of housing they are anticipating.

The Chair also noted that the increase in police activity in the area over the past few weeks had resulted in several leaders being arrested for citations or other violations.

- Ms. Lusk commented that the increase police activity did have a noticeable impact on outreach efforts and the overall tension in the area.

Mr. Alexander stated that it was unfortunate that the members of Hui Aloha were not present to participate in this discussion, adding that the City's focus is on connecting people to safe and stable housing, and to maintain the health and safety of all persons in the community. Mr. Alexander reinforced that the City remains committed to working with all groups who are willing to engage in constructive dialogue regarding this issue.

Ms. Rezentes asked whether people believed they were getting free public land for housing.

- The Chair clarified that Lieutenant Governor Green has had conversations with certain groups, but is unable to comment on what has been told to these groups. The Chair

also noted that these projects are separate from the Ohana Zone projects that are currently being implemented.

Ms. Mitchell stated the importance of looking at annualized data from the PIT Count, as the data shows that providers are moving people through shelters quicker and getting people into housing. Ms. Mitchell also stated that PIC is working on data sharing agreements with other agencies but does need help with the costs of building out the HMIS system. It is critical for PIC providers to be able to connect with other systems of care, as many case managers and staff do not have a thorough understanding of these systems and how to navigate their clients through the services offered.

Seeing no further questions, Chair Morishige thanked Ms. Lusk and introduced Ms. Heather Henderson of Collaborative Quality Consulting.

Presentation by Ms. Heather Henderson, Collaborative Quality Consulting.

Ms. Henderson introduced herself and the purpose for the three-year evaluation contracted by the Department of Human Services. The evaluation will review the following items:

- Impact of Housing First and Ohana Zones on improving access to permanent housing
- Identifying other interventions required to improve access to permanent housing

Ms. Henderson explained that this approach will differ from traditional evaluations that focus on specific areas, and will instead use a systems approach to evaluate the implementation drivers that will help the Department achieve its goals of ending homelessness in Hawaii.

Ms. Henderson stated she looks forward to meeting with various providers and stakeholders throughout the evaluation process.

Discussion and Questions.

Chair Morishige thanked Ms. Henderson and informed the Council and members of the public that staff are available to assist with coordinating meetings with Ms. Henderson.

Mr. Rolf asked Ms. Henderson if the evaluation will be included an analysis of each agency's operating budget.

- Ms. Henderson stated that the evaluation process is only beginning, but that a cost-benefit is beyond the scope of the evaluators' expertise.
- The Chair noted that PIC has been working on a similar project over the past several years.

Mr. Rolf asked about the budget for the evaluation for the next three years.

- Ms. Henderson stated that the evaluation budget is \$225,000.

Mr. Alexander thanked Ms. Henderson and the Department of Human Services for including the City & County of Honolulu in the evaluation, and commended the use of funds for the project.

Mr. Brackeen III added that the Department will receive ongoing reports during the evaluation, rather than a single report at the end of the period.

Ms. Lewis departed at 11:56 a.m. Quorum was revised to reflect 18 out of 27 members

present.

VI. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action regarding the formation of a working group, in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 36, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, to prioritize homeless efforts in the area surrounding the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center pursuant to HRS §92-2.5 (b)(2). (Vote)**

The Chair distributed copies of HCR 36 to members of the Council and proposed establishing a Permitted Interaction Group consisting of the Chair, a representative from the City & County of Honolulu, and a representative from Partners in Care. This group will complement existing membership on the Task Force established by HCR 36.

Mr. Chandler suggested including a representative from the business community to the PIG.

- The Chair updated the recommendation to include a representative from the business community on the PIG.

The Chair opened the floor to discussion, and seeing no further questions or comments, the Chair entertained a motion to establish the PIG. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Mersereau and seconded by Mr. Brackeen III. The Chair called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness to serve on a working group established by Senate Bill 1491 CD1, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, to evaluate current behavioral health care and related systems and identify steps that may be taken to promote effective integration and more effectively respond to and coordinate care for persons experiencing substance abuse, mental health conditions, and homelessness. (Vote)**

The Chair briefly discussed the behavioral health working group established by SB 1494 CD1 and noted that the HICH has been asked to send a representative. Because many HICH member agencies are already represented in the working group, the Chair recommended a designee from Partners in Care.

Mr. Alexander commented that the designee from Partners in Care have a background in mental health care, given the nature of the working group.

The Chair opened the floor to discussion, and seeing no further questions or comments, the Chair entertained a motion to designate a representative from Partners in Care to represent the HICH on the behavioral health working group established by SB 1494 CD1. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Mersereau and seconded by Ms. Maesaka-Hirata. The Chair called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. **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 stated that the Permitted Interaction Group continues to meet on a regular basis.

VIII. **General Announcements**

- A. **Chairperson and Staff Reports: April/May/June 2019**

Chair Morishige shared the staff report for the period from April through June 2019 and noted that a copy of the report will be provided. The Chair noted several key updates from the office, including working with Lieutenant Governor Green to advise on any public lands that might be available for homeless projects and working with DHS to open a new Joint Outreach Center in the Kaneohe Civic Center building.

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 Health (DOH)*
- *Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)*
- *County of Hawaii*
- *Department of Human Services, Homeless Programs Office*
- *Department of Education*

IX. 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.

X. Topics for upcoming meetings.

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.

XI. Meeting schedule.

The following Council meetings are proposed for the 2019 calendar year:

- September 16, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon
- December 16, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon

XII. Adjourn.

Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Ms. Menino and seconded by Ms. Mitchell. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

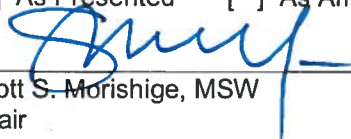
Minutes prepared by:



Emma Grochowski
Homelessness Community Development Specialist

9/16/19
Date

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at their Regular Meeting on April 29, 2019:
[] As Presented [] As Amended



Scott S. Morishige, MSW
Chair

9/16/19
Date