Call to Order. Taking of the Roll. Roll taken and there was a quorum established with 16 out of 27 members. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 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 provided a brief overview of the agenda for today's meeting and thanked the council for their continued work and participation. The Chair also welcomed Mr. Sam Millington as the new Executive Director of Partners in Care and noted that Mr. Millington will be the designated representative for the Continuum of Care for the County of Honolulu.

Mr. Andy Taylor arrived at 10:05 a.m. Quorum was revised to reflect 17 out of 27 members present.

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

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Rolf. 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 September 17, 2018, 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. Noting none, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2018, Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Rolf and seconded by Ms. Graham. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hirai arrived at 10:07 a.m., and Mr. Russell Suzuki arrived at 10:10 a.m. Quorum was revised to reflect 19 out of 27 members present.

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. Ms. Cynthia Rezentes

Ms. Rezentes expressed concerns surrounding a new project announced in Governor Ige's 'Ohana Zone package. Ms. Rezentes stated that describing the project as "permanent supportive housing" might be misleading to providers and community members because the parcel allocated to this project is currently under a 1-year lease extension with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Ms. Rezentes also stated her concerns about the budgeted cost of the project, which she stated exceeded the annual operating costs of the previous transitional housing project located on that site. Ms. Rezentes asked the Council to discuss the issue and to clarify the project's characterization as "permanent supportive housing."

Chair Morishige acknowledged Ms. Rezentes's concerns and stated the matter would be discussed with the Department of Human Services. The Chair also stated that the proposed use of the project is consistent with the final lease between the Department of Human Services and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

b. Mr. David Cannell

Mr. Cannell described his family's lived experiences of homelessness and expressed his concern that initiatives are not moving quickly enough. Mr. Cannell stated that the cost of unsheltered homelessness is high, and that the State should be open to less expensive options, such as village-style housing, for people who do not want or need expensive housing. Mr. Cannell also prepared handouts related to his testimony.

Chair Morishige thanked Mr. Cannell for his testimony and asked him to provide copies of the handouts to staff for distribution.
c. Ms. Jo Jordan

Ms. Jordan remarked on the need for consistency in attendance from both the House and Senate membership and was pleased to see Senator Harimoto in attendance. Ms. Jordan expressed her concerns about the execution of homeless initiatives moving forward, specifically surrounding the transition of the parcel that was returned to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and subsequently given a 1-year lease extension for a different project. Ms. Jordan also expressed concerns about the number of homeless projects on the Leeward coast, stating that the Leeward part of Oahu is often targeted for a disproportionate number of facilities serving people who are homeless.

Chair Morishige thanked Ms. Jordan for her testimony and noted that council member Representative Cedric Gates had advocated in previous meetings for additional homeless resources for the Leeward coast due to the rising numbers from the 2018 Point in Time Count.

V. New Business

a. Discussion regarding legislative advocacy priorities for the upcoming 2019 session of the Hawaii State Legislature, including alignment with the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness strategic plan.

The Chair introduced Ms. Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).

Presentation by Ms. Katy Miller, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Ms. Miller introduced herself and thanked the Council for the opportunity to share updates to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness strategic plan. Ms. Miller noted that the new plan is called "Home, Together," and reflects the lessons learned from the previous strategic plan.

Ms. Miller explained that the new strategic plan focuses on shared national goals, including ending homelessness for veterans, people who are chronically homeless, families, and unaccompanied youth. However, based on feedback from communities, the new plan does not include defined timelines for ending homelessness for these subpopulations. Instead, USICH recommends that local communities build their own aggressive timelines for addressing homelessness within these subpopulations and should develop and retool their own systemic plans for making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

Ms. Miller also noted that the new strategic plan emphasizes the following areas:
- Increasing affordable housing, and linking the creation of affordable housing with homelessness interventions
- Strengthening prevention and diversion programs
- Specific initiatives for unsheltered homelessness
- Addressing rural homelessness
- Career success and economic mobility for people exiting homelessness
- Expertise of people with lived experiences of homelessness, including addressing racial disparities within homeless services

Ms. Miller reviewed the main objectives and strategies of the new strategic plan:
- Ensure homelessness is a rare occurrence
  - Building lasting systems that end homelessness
  - Emphasize prevention and diversion programs
- Ensure homelessness is a brief occurrence
  - Importance of low-barrier shelters and portals of entry
• Strong Coordinated Entry System
  • Creating pathways to permanent housing using a person-centered approach
  • Ensure homelessness is a one-time occurrence
    • Connection to adequate services and opportunities, including childcare, education, employment, etc.
  • Sustain an end to homelessness
    • Sustain resources at a scale necessary to respond to future needs

Ms. Miller encouraged attendees to visit the USICH website at http://www.usich.gov and to sign up for bi-weekly newsletter updates.

Discussion and Questions.
Mr. Millington asked whether the USICH strategic plan also included a strong emphasis on educational components, such as GED programs.

• Ms. Miller confirmed that USICH is working closely with the Department of Labor and the Department of Education on strategies to connect people exiting homelessness to both employment and educational opportunities.

Ms. Tasaka asked if USICH is partnering with the American Job Centers nationwide to utilize their existing programming.

• Ms. Miller confirmed, noting that local communities may still be working on strengthening their plans to conform to the updated strategic plans for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Mr. Alexander discussed the dichotomy between promoting homeownership versus rental housing and wondered if there is any discussion at the national level regarding the sense of community created by homeownership.

• Ms. Miller stated that there should be efforts made in both areas, adding that pathways to homeownership are more often observed in rural communities. Ms. Miller noted that homeownership may be an extended path for many households experiencing homelessness in urban areas, and that it is important to have steps that households can take to improve their economic situation.

Dr. Anderson asked about the emphasis on behavioral health services in the federal strategic plan for people experiencing homelessness.

• Ms. Miller affirmed that the federal plan highlights the importance of having adequate access to resources and treatment that are typically funded at the State level. Ms. Miller also noted that these resources should be as low-barrier as possible.

The Chair thanked Ms. Miller for her presentation and continued efforts to support Hawaii’s framework to address homelessness. The Chair introduced Mr. Gavin Thornton of the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice to discuss upcoming legislative priorities identified by Hawaii’s Continua of Care.

Presentation by Mr. Gavin Thornton, Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice.

Mr. Thornton outlined priorities for homelessness services: Increased funding and improved funding stability.

Homelessness Services
• Add $15 million to the base budget to provide a secure funding source for proven programs
  • Outreach: Outreach teams are vital to connect homeless people with services and proven programs like Housing First. For many chronically homeless or mentally ill people, it can take multiple encounters over months or years to build
trust and move people off the streets.

- **Rapid Rehousing**: It is designed to help individuals and families exit homelessness quickly and return to permanent housing by providing rental stipends, assistance in finding housing, and case management services.

- **Housing First**: Housing First targets chronically homeless individuals and families with disabling conditions. It saves the state about $59,000 in healthcare costs per year, a net savings of $28,000 per client per year after factoring in Housing First program expenses.

- **LEAD**: Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion is a pre-booking diversion program that gives police officers the discretion to redirect low-level offenders to case managers. A pilot project funded by the Legislature in 2017 is showing promise. In 2018, the program was expanded to Maui and Hawaii Island.

- **Family Assessment Center**: Mr. Thornton touted the success of the Family Assessment Center in Kakaako, which housed 54 families it served within 81 days during its first year of operation. The 2018 Legislature appropriated funding for an additional FAC on a neighbor island.

Mr. Thornton detailed the following legislative priority items related to funding for low-income housing and permanent supporting housing:

**Low-Income Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing**

- $200 million for low-income rental housing, including $75 million per year, over the next ten years, dedicated to permanent supportive housing
- Mr. Thornton noted that these amounts should be the new baseline for housing funding, and $75 million per year should be able to address the current needs of the estimated 1,700 households experiencing chronic homelessness in the State, while saving close to $3 billion in healthcare and other costs to the public

**Rental Assistance and Homelessness Prevention**

- $1.5 million for the Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative (CSHI), which has been attributed to a noticeable decrease in evictions by judges and attorneys
- $800,000 for a short-term rental assistance pilot program for working families who are having trouble making ends meet, coupled with financial counseling to ensure a steady transition off the program
- $1.5 million for a kupuna rental assistance program for seniors who are on fixed incomes and can pay 50% of their income toward rent

**Mental Health Treatment and Case Management**

- Support legislative changes to the Assisted Community Treatment (ACT) Act to make ACT orders more accessible

**Discussion and questions.**

Chair Morishige asked Mr. Thornton to explain the process followed by Partners in Care to identify these priorities and any collaboration with the neighbor islands.

- Mr. Thornton stated that Partners in Care’s Advocacy Committee assembled several focus groups to identify the top legislative priorities for the upcoming session and noted that several partners from the neighbor islands participated in the process. Approximately 20-25 stakeholders gave input during this process. Mr. Thornton hoped to increase attendance at future focus group meetings.

Mr. Rolf asked whether Partners in Care had taken a position on the City & County of Honolulu’s Sit/Lie ordinances. Mr. Rolf clarified that he recently met an individual through his church who was experiencing unsheltered homelessness, but the individual did not see his situation as a problem.

- Mr. Thornton stated that while Partners in Care has not testified as an organization on Sit/Lie bans, Partners in Care has published a statement regarding the criminalization
of homelessness. Mr. Thornton remarked many member organizations have strong feelings on both sides of the issue.

Mr. Alexander thanked Mr. Thornton and Partners in Care for their ongoing hard work, and for identifying priorities with overall consensus.

Ms. Cumming asked whether it would make sense to incorporate some of the rental assistance funding requests into existing programs that are already in place, as doing so may be easier for providers who already receive funding from multiple sources and must adhere to each funder’s requirements.

- Mr. Thornton clarified that separating these requests may make discussions with legislators easier but was open to discussing further revisions.

Chair Morishige reminded the Council that a vote regarding adopting these legislative priorities is on the agenda and encouraged members to ask any clarifying questions.

Ms. Miller suggested that the low-income and affordable housing advocacy priorities specifically identify housing that is affordable to people exiting homelessness.

Mr. Alexander commented that the City & County of Honolulu’s affordable housing programs currently target households at 60% AMI or less.

Mr. Park asked what agency will be administering the shallow subsidy program.

- Mr. Thornton replied that the priorities do not identify a specific agency to administer the program, and that this issue would be determined as proposals go through the legislative process.

Mr. Alexander remarked on the eviction data related to the CSHI program and emphasized the importance of keeping prevention funding separate from the base package of homeless funding for the purposes of data and evaluation.

Ms. Miller shared that the State of New York has experienced success with a prevention program that can pay for past-due rent for families who have received a 3-day Pay or Vacate notice from their landlord, noting that the cost of preventing housing loss is substantially less than assisting families within the homeless service system.

Chair Morishige added that the Department of Human Services is also looking to support families exiting homelessness with ongoing case management for at least six months. Chair Morishige also stated that DHS is considering incorporating the role of the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness into the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness statute. The position as it currently exists is a special project within DHS, and incorporating the position into statute will add stability, regardless of the person appointed to the position.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata asked if this meant the position would be converted to a civil service position.

- Chair Morishige stated that the position would not be a civil service position but would be appointed by the Governor in statute as a permanent exempt position.

Mr. Alexander commented that, as someone who has held the position before, he supports the recommendation, and added that doing so would be consistent with similar appointments at the national level.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata asked for more clarifying information, including where in the Governor’s office this position would be placed.

- Chair Morishige clarified that the proposal is to attach the Governor’s Coordinator on
Homelessness administratively to DHS, but appointed by and reporting to the Governor. Currently, the position reports to the Director of DHS, but is physically housed within the Office of the Governor.

Dr. Anderson stated that the proposal would be similar to the appointment of other department directors in similar roles.

- Chair Morishige confirmed that the proposed change would be similar to departments such as the Office of Youth Services.

Attorney General Russell Suzuki commented that the proposal should clarify whether the appointment would need to be confirmed by the State Senate.

Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adopt the proposed legislative priorities for the upcoming session of the Hawaii State Legislature, with the inclusion of additional funding for aftercare services when homeless families exit shelter and establishing the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness in the HICH establishing statute as a permanent exempt position appointed by and reporting to the Governor. Motion was made by Attorney General Russell Suzuki and seconded by Dr. Anderson. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Morishige introduced Mr. Sam Millington to share updates regarding the 2019 Point in Time (PIT) Count for both Oahu and the neighbor islands. Mr. Millington called Ms. Heather Lusk, Vice Chair of Partners in Care, to provide updates to the Council on behalf of Partners in Care.

Presentation by Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap.

Ms. Lusk stated that the 2019 Point in Time Count would occur on January 22, 2019 on both Oahu and the neighbor islands. Ms. Lusk acknowledged that there had been some changes to the scheduled dates of the Count and thanked the Council for their patience as some issues were resolved. Volunteers and staff will ask people where they slept on the night of January 22, 2019.

Ms. Lusk stated that there are six regions on Oahu and all are looking for volunteers and donations. Interested parties should sign up on the Partners in Care website at http://www.partnersincareoahu.org, even if they plan to sign up directly with a specific provider. Donations of small incentive items, hygiene kits, and gift cards are also welcomed.

Ms. Menino added that the neighbor islands will begin counting on January 23, 2019, while asking about the night of January 22, 2019. Trainings on the neighbor islands are already underway.

Ms. Menino added that there will be an additional question on the PIT survey to ask people if they had become homeless due to a natural disaster. The neighbor islands will also include a GIS mapping component to map the locations where individuals were encountered during the survey.

Discussion and questions.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata asked if work furlough participants might be able to lend volunteer services during the PIT Count. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata added that if the work furlough participants are not able to physically canvass, they might be able to help assemble packets if materials are provided.

- Ms. Lusk thanked Ms. Maesaka-Hirata and will bring up the offer at the upcoming PIT General Meeting and Volunteer Committee Meeting.

Mr. Millington reaffirmed the need to think creatively about attracting volunteers and building the volunteer base for future years and events.
Chair Morishige appreciated the efforts of both Continua of Care in beginning the planning process early.

VI. 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.

The Chair introduced Mr. Dave Rolf to provide feedback from the business community on the previous report prepared by the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice on the cost of scaling permanent supportive housing.

Presentation by Mr. Dave Rolf, Business Community Representative.

Mr. Rolf thanked the Chair for the opportunity to provide feedback on the projections made by the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice. Mr. Rolf shared some of his background in advertising and in the automotive industry, which is often used to establish other local economic benchmarks.

After discussing with other business partners, Mr. Rolf concurred that the $380,000 estimate for a single, condominium-style affordable unit is within current market expectations. However, Mr. Rolf shared that the proper use of federal and local tax credits and scalable projects can result in developers only needing to pay around $100,000 per unit up front.

Mr. Rolf remarked that perceived “service resistance” among people who are homeless often ends when people are given a home and stressed the importance of identifying gaps in the mathematical calculations before the proposal is presented to legislators.

Discussion and questions.

Mr. Millington asked if the medical cost savings data showed any separation between people who are chronically homeless and people who are unstably housed.

- Chair Morishige responded that the medical cost savings data were taken from the Hawaii Pathways Project (HPP), which served approximately 100 chronically homeless households.

- Mr. Rolf added that either way, the savings should still be significant.

Mr. Rolf remarked on the requested appropriation of $200 million for affordable rental housing and stated that increasing State spending might be more attractive to federal funders.

Chair Morishige thanked Mr. Rolf for his input and ongoing support of the permanent supportive housing project analysis.

Presentation by Chair Scott Morishige, Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness.

Chair Morishige described some of the recent strategies implemented by State, City, and non-profit partners to better engage unsheltered and “service resistant” households. Chair Morishige provided handouts to the Council regarding the service and shelter placements from recent coordinated outreach efforts, noting that the numbers of individuals assisted increased as a result of including both free transportation and substance abuse treatment options.
Chair Morishige also explained that the State is distributing a daily shelter vacancy report for both publicly-funded and privately-funded shelters to better assist outreach workers and law enforcement. Mr. Alexander remarked that the collaborative effort has been very beneficial in practice.

Chair Morishige distributed an updated handout of key system achievements during the past quarter. According to available data, there were slight changes to the housing placement rate and the length of stay in homeless programs. The housing placement rate decreased slightly from 54% to 51%, while the average length of stay increased from 164 days to 166 days. While there has been general consistency, additional analysis is needed to determine why the numbers are not trending in the desired direction.

Discussion and questions.
Ms. Cumming asked if there was any way to show retention in services or shelter for people encountered during coordinated outreach efforts.

- Chair Morishige responded that both the City and State are beginning to track retention rates, now that full names of individuals encountered are being collected. Previously, individuals did not always give their full names, which did not allow for accurate data tracking. Recent estimates show that approximately 50% of individuals placed into shelter were exited, but many were placed again the following month.

Mr. Millington wondered if people encountered during these efforts were asked how long they had been in Hawaii, and if increased emergency shelter usage could be due to people recently arriving from other states.

- Mr. Alexander replied that the current HMIS data indicate that upward of 80% of people experiencing homelessness in Hawaii have lived in Hawaii for five or more years. Mr. Alexander stated that, while there may be higher concentrations of new arrivals in certain areas, it is a myth that most people experiencing homelessness have recently arrived from other states.

Ms. Miller added that communities nationwide are experiencing this widespread belief.

VII. General Announcements

A. Chairperson and Staff Reports: October/November/December 2018

The Chair shared the staff report for the period from October through December 2018 and noted that a copy of the report will be provided. Chair Morishige also asked staff member Ms. Emma Grochowsky to provide a brief update regarding some initiatives to better engage with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Ms. Grochowsky described the Office’s efforts to directly engage with people on the streets during outreach events, enforcements, and through in-person requests for assistance. Ms. Grochowsky noted that the Office is interested in learning what services have worked for people and why other services, including shelter or treatment, have not worked, to better inform policy decisions and future program needs.

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):
Chair Morishige introduced Mr. Daniel Kaneshiro, representing the faith-based community, to provide an oral update on the faith-based community’s recent efforts to address homelessness.

Presentation by Mr. Daniel Kaneshiro.

Mr. Kaneshiro presented a short video showcasing The Shelter, a new facility located on the First Assembly of God property in Kahaluu. Mr. Kaneshiro described how the concept developed as a challenge from the Mayor to create more sustainable alternatives to park feedings and other similar activities. The faith-based community shared some of the Mayor’s concerns and came together to look for a more permanent solution.

The Shelter can currently house up to eight single females with children, and Mr. Kaneshiro emphasized the spiritual component that is integral to the program’s operation. The faith-based community is looking to expand the program as land becomes available.

VIII. 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.

IX. 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.

X. Meeting schedule.

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

- March 18, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon
- June 17, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon
- September 16, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon
- December 16, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon
XI. Adjourn.
Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Ms. Cumming and seconded by Ms. Maesaka-Hirata. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes prepared by:

Emma Grochosky
Homelessness Community Development Specialist

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at their Regular Meeting on December 17, 2018:
[✓] As Presented   [ ] As Amended

Scott S. Morishige, M3W
Chair