

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)
Honolulu International Airport Conference Rooms 3 & 4
Monday, December 16, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Council Attendees:

Mr. Scott Morishige	Chair
Ms. Daisy Lynn Hartsfield for	Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS)
Mr. Harold Brackeen III	Administrator of the Homeless Programs Office of DHS
Ms. Yara Sutton for	Director of the Department of Health (DOH)
Mr. Leonard Hoshijo for	Director of the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations
Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for	Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD)
Mr. Bruce Oliveira for	Adjutant General of the Department of Defense (DOD)
Ms. Jenifer Jenkins for	Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Ms. Melissa Lewis for	Attorney General
Ms. Toby Portner for	Superintendent of Department of Education (DOE)
Senator Russell Ruderman	Hawaii State Senate
Mr. Jimmy Hamada for	Hawaii State House of Representatives
Mr. Ben Park for	Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Mr. Marc Alexander for	Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu
Ms. Sharon Hirota for	Mayor of the County of Hawaii
Ms. Lori Tsuhako for	Mayor of the County of Maui
Ms. Laura Thielen	Continuum of Care for the County of Honolulu
Ms. Brandee Menino	Continuum of Care for the County of Hawaii
Ms. Makana Kamibayashi	Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai
Ms. Maude Cumming	Continuum of Care for the County of Maui
Mr. Andy Taylor	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Mr. Mark Chandler	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Office of Community Planning & Development
Mr. Dave Rolf	Business Community Representative

Absent:

Representative for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Representative for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Representative for the Mayor of the County of Kauai; 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:

Ms. Katy Miller, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; Ms. Laura Leone, National Council for Behavioral Health; Ms. Kate Davidson, National Council for Behavioral Health

- I. **Call to Order. Taking of the Roll.** Roll taken and there was a quorum established with 22 out of 27 members. The meeting was called to order at 10:04 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 welcomed special guests Ms. Katy Miller (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness), Ms. Laura Leone (National Council for

Behavioral Health), and Ms. Kate Davidson (National Council for Behavioral Health). The Chair also recognized departing Council member Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, who will be leaving her role as Deputy Director for the Department of Public Safety, Corrections Division.

- II. **Overview and Approval of Agenda.** The Chair presented the agenda for review and recommended a revision to the order of agenda items. The Chair recommended to move item VIII(a) ahead of item V. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Tshako and seconded by Mr. Alexander. The Chair opened the floor for discussion, and seeing none, the Chair called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- III. **Approval of Minutes.** The Chair reminded members that the September 16, 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 no additions or corrections at this time, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2019, Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Portner and seconded by Ms. Maesaka-Hirata. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- IV. **Public Testimony.** Chair Morishige opened the floor to public testimony. No members of the public elected to provide testimony.

Mr. Jimmy Hamada arrived at 10:13 a.m. Quorum was revised to reflect 23 out of 27 members present.

- V. **General Announcements**
a. **Chairperson and Staff Reports: October / November / December 2019.**

The Chair provided a recap of the State's overall progress toward ending homelessness through key data metrics over time. The Chair highlighted that the State cannot do this work alone, and thanked the Counties, housing agencies, service providers, Native Hawaiian agencies, and Continua of Care for their ongoing efforts to target resources toward people experiencing homelessness.

The Chair identified several trends and correlations in the following system performance indicators:

Exits to permanent housing

- Both the number and percentage of households exiting homeless programs to permanent housing has increased in recent years.
 - Permanent housing exits are reported directly by homeless service providers.
- Significant increases in exits to permanent housing were observed during the following time periods:
 - 2009 – 2012: HUD increased homelessness prevention and diversion resources by providing an infusion of Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) funds into local communities
 - 2014 – 2015: Hawaii received assistance from national technical assistance providers, including the 25 Cities Initiative and Built for Zero, and began to develop a Coordinated Entry System.
 - 2018 – 2019: Rapid Rehousing programs received increased local and national support. DHS Homeless Programs Office began implementing performance

metrics in State contracts for homeless services.

Point-in-Time Count

- After several years of consistent increases through 2016, statewide PIT numbers have consistently decreased.
- Prior to 2009, the PIT Count was performed using a sampling method and was conducted every two years. PIT Counts now implement a census-style survey methodology to increase accuracy.
- Beginning in 2017, the State's homeless housing inventory began to shift its concentration from transitional housing toward permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing.

Housing Inventory Count

- Both State and federal priorities have emphasized the importance of permanent housing and rapid rehousing inventory.
- Prior to 2017, the PIT raw numbers have consistently exceeded the HIC. The State is coming closer to closing the gap between individuals experiencing homelessness and resources to meet their needs.

Continuum of Care Funding

- HUD increased federal funding to Hawaii's CoCs beginning in 2016, resulting in statewide federal funding increases from around \$11M to more than \$12M in 2019.
 - HUD has continued to prioritize permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing programs in their annual CoC program competitions.
- Both CoCs are receiving increased federal funding to meet resource needs for HMIS services and CoC planning.
- The State dedicated funding to homeless civil legal services after HUD eliminated funding for non-housing services from its CoC funding competition.

Department of Education Homeless Students

- While the DOE uses a different definition of "homeless," which includes families who are "doubled-up" or living in transient accommodations, data trends for students who were living in shelters, transitional housing, or in places not meant for human habitation were consistent with statewide PIT data.
- DOE tracked an increasing number of homeless students as defined by HUD until 2016, and the numbers began to decrease annually after 2016.

Chronically Homeless Households

- The statewide number of chronically homeless households began to decrease after 2016 after a decade of annual increases, although the number of chronically homeless households on Oahu has remained largely stable.
- In general, individuals are considered "chronically homeless" if they have been homeless for more than one year and have been diagnosed with a disabling condition.

The Chair noted that despite ongoing concerns regarding homeless data quality and reliability, data trends from multiple sources are generally consistent with each other. Physical copies of the key data trends were distributed to members.

Discussion and Questions.

The Chair opened the floor to questions from the Council and, seeing none, the Chair moved forward to the next agenda item.

VI.

New Business

a. Discussion and possible action regarding strategies to address the intersection

between homelessness and health, and the formation of a working group pursuant to H.R.S. § 92.-2.5 to explore this intersection further and make recommendations for action to the full council. (Vote)

Overview of work by the National Council for Behavioral Health (NCBH)

The Chair introduced special guests Ms. Laura Leona and Ms. Kate Davidson, representing the National Council for Behavioral Health, to discuss their work with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health regarding homeless individuals with severe mental illnesses.

Ms. Leone introduced herself and described the National Council for Behavioral Health's role in supporting Hawaii's efforts to meet the needs of homeless individuals with serious mental illnesses. NCBH will be working closely with DHS, DOH, and other key stakeholders to create a core implementation team and an eventual steering committee to oversee progress. NCBH began their work in October with an environmental scan and a series of interviews, and will be continuing with site visits on Oahu and Hawaii island during this visit. Ms. Leone welcomed input from any interested parties.

Overview of work by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)

The Chair described the scope of work being performed by consultants with the Corporation for Supportive Housing surrounding Hawaii's Medicaid 1115 waiver amendment and data sharing between systems. Hard copies of an earlier report produced by CSH was included in the packet distributed to members.

The Chair provided an overview of some of CSH's high-level recommendations to the State, including continuing to implement HMIS best practices, data sharing exploration, and collaboration between funders of homeless programs and services. CSH also recommended that the State explore a data warehouse to store data from multiple systems, and encouraged the HICH to adopt a stronger role in facilitating collaboration and discussion across systems.

The Chair shared that several of CSH's recommendations are in the process of being implemented, including mapping out the costs and resource requirements of a statewide data warehouse and establishing a monthly homeless outreach funders' meeting.

Overview of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) expansion

The Chair briefly summarized the results of the initial evaluation of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion pilot program on Oahu, which is funded by the Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. The program connects individuals who have both a chronic history of substance abuse and heavy law enforcement involvement with case management and triage services. The initial LEAD evaluation showed a 55% reduction in citations among participants, along with reduced time on the streets and reduced methamphetamine use.

The State is expanding the LEAD pilot program to the neighbor islands, where services provided by DOH providers will be paired with shelter and stabilization beds for participants experiencing homelessness. Ohana Zone funds will provide dedicated shelter beds located on public lands.

Discussion and Questions.

To further the Council's understanding of efforts to address the intersection between homelessness and health systems, the Chair recommended the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group, pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5, consisting of members from the following groups:

- Department of Health
- Department of Human Services
- Partners in Care

- Bridging the Gap
- Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

The Chair opened the floor to discussion, and seeing no further questions or comments, the Chair entertained a motion to form a Permitted Interaction Group, pursuant to H.R.S. §92-2.5, to explore the interaction between homelessness and health systems. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Rolf and seconded by Senator Ruderman. The Chair called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion and possible action regarding the adoption of legislative advocacy priorities for the upcoming 2020 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. (Vote)

The Chair introduced Ms. Katy Miller, representing the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Presentation by Ms. Katy Miller

Ms. Miller addressed Hawaii's accomplishments and expressed gratitude for the community's continued teamwork and dedication to serving people experiencing homelessness. Ms. Miller affirmed Hawaii's focus on increasing access to permanent housing, and praised recent projects, such as the City & County's Kumuwai project with Ohana Zone funding and the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's Section 811 Mainstream vouchers for non-elderly disabled individuals, that increase affordable housing inventory.

Ms. Miller also commended Hawaii's increased partnerships with law enforcement, health plans, faith-based groups, and other partners who may not traditionally intersect with the homeless service system. Specifically, Ms. Miller highlighted the impacts of tenancy supports through the Medicaid 1115 waiver amendment, LEAD, the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project through PIC, two new shelters and safe parking sites on Hawaii island, Honolulu Police Department's Health, Efficiency, and Long-term Partnerships (H.E.L.P.) and the HONU program funded as an Ohana Zone project.

Ms. Miller encouraged Hawaii to continue to work across systems and use data to quickly help people exit homelessness into permanent housing.

The Chair thanked Ms. Miller for her ongoing support and representation of Hawaii's interests at the federal level.

Discussion of Existing Programs Funded through Ohana Zones and Other Sources

The Chair provided an overview of existing and upcoming Ohana Zone projects funded by the 2018 session of the Hawaii State Legislature. All \$30M of the appropriation has been encumbered and contracted. Ohana Zone programs support and expand the work being done by the homeless service system.

Ohana Zone programs focus on three general areas related to the State's framework to address homelessness: emergency shelter and outreach capacity, affordable and permanent supportive housing, and evaluation and training.

The Chair also shared information received from the Hawaii Tourism Authority concerning programs funded through Act 86, SLH 2018, which were intended to address homelessness in tourism and resort areas. Hard copies of the data collected by HTA were distributed to members.

The Chair noted, for the Council's review, that over 100 grantees received awards ranging from \$97.00 to \$99,000. Many of the programs funded were for food pantry and school supply donation programs, and many recipients struggled to demonstrate the impact of their programs on homelessness in tourist and resort areas. Act 86 funds also supported some programs that were already funded by other sources of State funds.

To ensure new programs are in alignment with existing programs and funders, the Chair suggested that the Council be given an opportunity to provide feedback to the Legislature when new funding opportunities arise in the future.

Discussion and Questions.

Ms. Tshako asked which agency determined how Act 86 funds were allocated.

- The Chair stated that the Hawaii Tourism Authority, with input from the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, determined how the funds were awarded.

Mr. Alexander noted that the City & County of Honolulu was not consulted regarding any awards for Oahu, and suggested that the Legislature consider making collaboration with County partners a future requirement. Mr. Alexander also suggested that recipients be required to enter data into the HMIS, or to partner with another provider who can assist with data entry.

The Chair emphasized that the intent of the discussion is to raise awareness generate solutions that will strengthen collaboration between both funders and providers, as well as reduce duplication of services.

Review of Legislative Priorities for HICH

The Chair asked Mr. Alexander to provide a summary of the recommended legislative priorities for the full Council.

Mr. Alexander identified several key priority items for the 2020 legislative session, including:

- Stabilization beds on all islands for homeless individuals with serious mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders, including repurposing unused public buildings to support stabilization beds
- Transportation for non-emergency purposes
- Expansion of the CARES program to address specific substance abuse needs in Hawaii (e.g. methamphetamine, alcohol, etc.)
- Continued support of programs that successfully transition people out of homelessness
- Sustained funding for affordable housing for those earning 60% AMI and below (estimated need is \$200M)

Mr. Alexander stated that this year's goal is to increase the number of signatories on the unified advocacy priorities from 100 to 150.

Discussion and Questions.

Ms. Cumming asked for additional information on the CARES program.

- Ms. Sutton explained that the CARES program was launched by DOH on October 1, 2019 and is intended to assist anyone with substance abuse needs. Individuals can call the existing crisis line at (808) 832-3100 and ask to be connected to the CARES

program. CARES staff can provide referrals to clean and sober housing, treatment, and other related services.

Seeing no further questions, the Chair entertained a motion to approve the suggested legislative priorities, with an amendment to include recommending that any new funding streams for homeless programs consult with the Council and the counties prior to implementation. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Tshako and seconded by Mr. Brackeen III. The Chair called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. **Continuing Business**

a. **Discussion and possible action regarding revisions to the 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. (Vote).**

The Chair referenced the written materials distributed to members concerning the State's ongoing efforts to support community-centered housing, strengthen provider capacity through both Ohana Zone funds and additional procurement training through the State Procurement Office, and continued engagement with technical assistance providers and consultants to remain in alignment.

The Chair addressed specific updates regarding the Pu'uohonua O Waianae and Lieutenant Governor Green's kauhale initiative. Both types of projects are seeking to add permanent housing inventory at low cost, specifically designed to promote a sense of community among residents. Lt. Governor Green has identified several State-owned sites that are in the process of being vetted for suitability. The Chair has also assisted Lt. Governor Green's office in partnering with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to grant a Right of Entry to HomeAid for the purpose of conducting site assessments. The Chair noted that all identified sites are still in the process of being vetted and discussions with land management agencies are ongoing.

Mr. Alexander requested that updates be made available to the Council as they occur, noting that the Council only meets quarterly and media reports may not be aligned with the information being provided by parties involved in these processes.

- The Chair noted Mr. Alexander's request for the record.

The Chair asked Mr. Park to provide an update on any recent decisions made by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority board regarding a potential kauhale site on HPHA property.

- Mr. Park stated that the HPHA board will be discussing the issue at their upcoming meeting on December 19, 2019.

The Chair asked Ms. Sutton if the Department of Health has any updates to share with the Council regarding lease of space on Hawaii State Hospital property.

- Ms. Sutton had no updates to provide on behalf of DOH.

The Chair referenced the draft report to the Legislature regarding the task force established by HCR 36. The initial report is being revised due to numerous changes occurring simultaneously, including the transfer of park jurisdiction from the State to the City & County of Honolulu. The report highlights the importance of understanding jurisdiction and building stronger relationships between providers and encampment residents.

The Chair commended Ms. Thielen and the work done by PIC providers to offer targeted resource fairs and workshops for encampment residents. In a census conducted in June 2019, only 14 of the 60 individuals counted were connected to a service provider, and only 10 had

been assessed for housing. Through ongoing outreach efforts, providers were recently able to assist approximately 10 residents with transitioning to Hale Mauiola.

VIII. **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.**

This agenda item was addressed in earlier discussions.

IX. **General Announcements**

A. Chairperson and Staff Reports: October / November / December 2019

The Chair shared the staff report for the period from October through December 2019 and noted that a copy of the report is included in the meeting packet.

The Chair also reminded members that both CoCs are soliciting volunteers and donations for their respective Point-in-Time Counts. Detailed information is available through PIC and BTG. The Chair also added that Mr. Kanehiro, who was unable to attend the meeting, provided updates regarding The Shelter, a transitional housing program for 14 families on the First Assembly of God campus in Kahalu'u. The Chair is seeking to include these units in the 2020 Housing Inventory Count and to ensure residents are counted during the Oahu PIT Count.

Mr. Alexander distributed copies of the City & County of Honolulu, Mayor's Office of Housing brochure outlining key efforts and strategies to end homelessness.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata introduced incoming Deputy Director of Corrections, Ms. Shari Kimoto. Ms. Kimoto will be replacing Ms. Maesaka-Hirata as the Department of Public Safety representative to the Council.

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 Human Services, Homeless Programs Office*
- *Department of Public Safety*
- *Department of Defense*
- *Department of Education*
- *Department of Health, Adult Mental Health Division*
- *Hawaii Public Housing Authority*
- *County of Hawaii*
- *City & County of Honolulu*
- *County of Kauai*
- *Continuum of Care for Oahu, Partners in Care*

- *Continuum of Care for Balance of State, Bridging the Gap*
- *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*
- *Faith-Based Community*

X. **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.

XI. **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.

XII. **Meeting Schedule**

The following Council meetings are proposed for the 2020 calendar year:

- Monday, March 16, 2020, 10 a.m. to noon
- Monday, June 15, 2020, 10 a.m. to noon
- Monday, September 21, 2020, 10 a.m. to noon
- Monday, December 21, 2020, 10 a.m. to noon

XIII. **Adjourn**

Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Ms. Maesaka-Hirata and seconded by Ms. Cumming. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes prepared by:

Emma Grochowsky
Homelessness Community Development Specialist

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

Date