

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

June 19, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Council Attendees:

Mr. Scott Morishige	Chair
Ms. Bridget Holthus for	Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS)
Dr. Ginny Pressler	Director of the Department of Health (DOH)
Ms. Elaine Young	Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for	Director of the Department of Public Safety
Mr. Garret Kamemoto for	Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
Brigadier General Bruce Oliveira for	Adjutant General of the Department of Defense
Ms. Deja Ostrowski for	Chairwoman, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Ms. Melissa Lewis for	Attorney General
Ms. Tobi Portner for	Superintendent of Education
Ms. Sarah Beamer for	Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Mr. Marc Alexander for	Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu
Mr. Lance Niimi for	Mayor of the County of Hawaii
Ms. Kanani Fu for	Mayor of the County of Kauai
Ms. Jennifer Stasch	Continuum of Care for the City & County of Honolulu, Partners In Care
Ms. Brandee Menino	Continuum of Care for the County of Hawaii, Bridging the Gap
Mr. Robert Shack	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Mr. Mark Chandler	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development
Pastor Daniel Kaneshiro	Faith-Based Representative

Absent:

Representatives from the Homeless Programs Office; Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; State Senate; State House of Representatives; County of Maui; Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai; Continuum of Care for the County of Maui; Business Community Representative

Staff:

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

Special Guests:

Ms. Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator, US Interagency Council on Homelessness; Mr. Lance Goto, Deputy Attorney General; Mr. Leo Asuncion, Director of DBEDT OP; Ms. Jane Tam, Special Plans Project Analyst, Office of Planning; Ms. Debra Mendes, Planner V, Office of Planning

- I. **Call to Order. Taking of the Roll.** Roll taken and there was a quorum established with 19 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. Please sign up at the registration desk if you are not receiving the handouts in advance of the meetings. Homeless Coordinator's staff is available to help.

The Chair introduced special guest; Ms. Katy Miller, Mr. Leo Asuncion and his team, and Deputy Attorney General Lance Goto.

The Chair recognized Ms. Julie Ford, Special Assistant and Public Affairs Officer that will be leaving the Homeless Coordinator's Office on June 30, 2017. He noted that she has played an important role in numerous special projects, but the coordination and startup of the Family Assessment Center in Kakaako and the weekly radio show "Road to Home" are her biggest accomplishments.

The Chair also introduced Ms. Sasha Inouye, practicum student with the University of Hawaii at Manoa Masters in Social Work program, who will be in the Homeless Coordinator's Office until August 2017.

Chair highlighted the 2017 statewide point in time count numbers. He recognized the hard work of service providers, community members, and all those on the council whose work contributed to the first statewide decrease in homelessness in eight years. He stated that the Continua of Care (CoCs) were critical in mobilizing volunteers, which contributed to a more thorough and accurate count this year.

At 10:07 a.m., Ms. Beamer joined the meeting.

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

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata and seconded by Dr. Pressler. 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 March 20, 2017 meeting minutes were e-mailed to members and that copies of the minutes were included in the members' packets. The Chair provided time for members to review the minutes, and asked if there were any additions/corrections. Noting none, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2017, Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting.

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

- IV. **Public testimony.** Chair Morishige opened the floor to public testimony. The public was asked to keep testimony limited to no more than one minute.

a. Mr. Michael Peacock, Hawaii Vet to Vet.

Mr. Peacock stated he wanted to comment on the agenda item in regard to safe zones. He is looking forward to see how this bills evolves because he feels this would have worked when he was homeless. He also wanted to agree on the importance of sustaining the state's efforts to address homelessness. He stated that he knows the importance of training and why the State is working toward a having a system in place. Mr. Peacock is working with churches and wanted to make sure we do not forget the importance of the faith based community.

The Chair thanked Mr. Peacock for his testimony and reminded the council of the work his office has been doing with co-sponsoring the Faith Based Summit that was held in April 2017 and how Hawaii County is planning their second annual Faith Based Summit with CoC–Hawaii. Chair also stated that we recognize the importance of the faith based community which is why we have been working with Pastor Daniel Kaneshiro and organizing resource fairs in the community.

b. Ms. Cynthia Rezentes, Leeward Housing Coalition and Kealahou West Oahu

Ms. Rezentes commented on SB 895 – Criminal Trespassing. She was wondering if the State has established rules for doing enforcement on State property. She stated that the City has been more diligent at doing enforcements in parks and the enforcement actions have had positive effects. She wanted to emphasize that the State needs to partner with the City since it seems counterproductive to do things alone.

The Chair acknowledged Ms. Rezentes testimony. He stated that the State does have policies and procedures in place that allow state land owners to address issues of unauthorized encampments on state lands. The Chair also stated that there has been close coordination with the City & County of Honolulu, and that he works closely with Executive Director Marc Alexander from the City's Office of Housing.

c. Ms. Connie Mitchell, Director, Institute for Human Services (I.H.S)

Ms. Mitchell stated that she was glad that the HICH was reviewing the plan. I.H.S has been engaged in outreach and she wanted to bring up that people are being released from prison without any place to go. She is requesting information from the Department of Public Safety on how many people are being released from prison due to serving the maximum time of their term. She would also like to know their specific needs before they return to the streets. Ms. Mitchell recommended integrating Substance Abuse and Mental Health in Public Safety system.

The Chair thanked Ms. Mitchell for her testimony and stated that this Council did establish a permitted interaction group to address coordinated entry, which includes the Department of Public Safety and Department of Health. In addition, the Legislature did provide additional funding this session for unsheltered persons experiencing mental illness and/or substance use.

V. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding the formation of a working group pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to review and recommend potential revisions to the ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness, and the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness.**

Chair Morishige provided background information regarding this action item. In 2012, the council adopted the ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness. Since that time, there have been numerous changes that have occurred – both in regard to the homeless population itself, as well as in the number of new programs and services available to address homelessness.

To assist the council members in their deliberations, the Chair has invited the Office of Planning, as well as the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to provide updates on work related to affordable housing in Hawaii, as well as work being done nationally to address the issue of homelessness.

Presentation from the Office on Planning.

Mr. Leo Asuncion, Executive Director of the Office on Planning, provided an update regarding the work of the Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing, and how the work of the Special Action Team aligns with the work of the council to address homelessness. A copy of Executive Director Asuncion's power point and handouts were shared with members.

- Kananai Fu asked about the Jan 1, 2017 date. On Kauai, the landlords that have building permits that are coming in for incentives.
- Jen Stasch asked about faith based partnerships. Churches are looking at their land for affordable housing.
- Mark Chandler asked about the numbers. HUD is seeing affordability period. If doing rehab after Jan 2017, it does not really increase the numbers.
- Interactive GIS.
 - Working around county maps.
- Leo Asuncion wants to make sure we will make recommendations during the summer of 2017.
- Lead agency is HHFDC. Chair Morishige mentioned that there is a section in our homeless strategic plans that addresses this issue. The Chair thanked Mr. Asuncion and his staff.

Presentation from Ms. Katy Miller of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).

Ms. Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator for the USICH, introduced herself and her role as a regional coordinator. She highlighted the progress that the nation has made in addressing homelessness. In particular, Ms. Miller noted that since 2010 veteran homelessness has been reduced by 50%, chronic homelessness reduced by 27%, and family homelessness reduced by 23%. In addition, Ms. Miller noted that Hawaii has also made progress during this same time period.

According to Ms. Miller, better coordination of outreach services and lower barriers for program entry are two key ingredients for success. In addition, Ms. Miller noted the importance of using data to guide decision making, and the importance of evidence-based practices.

Looking ahead, Ms. Miller noted that USICH will be placing increased emphasis on efforts to address family and youth homelessness. In regard to youth homelessness, she noted she will be presenting to the Partners in Care general membership meeting tomorrow.

Motion to establish a working group pursuant to 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.

Director Pressler made the motion, and Executive Director Alexander seconded. The suggested composition of the working group includes Chair Morishige; representatives from the Continua of Care for Hawaii Island, City & County of Honolulu, and Kauai; a representative from the Department of Attorney General; and a representative from the Faith-based community.

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

b. Discussion and possible action regarding appointment of HICH members, in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 148, to a working group to address the issue of squatting in the State of Hawaii pursuant to HRS §92-2.5 (b)(2).

Chair Morishige provided background in regard to this action item. The Hawaii State Legislature recently passed HCR148, which requests the convening of a working group to examine and develop recommendations to address the issue of squatting. A copy of the resolution was distributed to all members.

Motion to establish a working group pursuant to H.R.S. §92-2.5 and in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 148 to address the issue of squatting in the State of Hawaii.

Deputy Attorney General Melissa Lewis made the motion, and Director Pressler seconded. The suggested composition of the working group includes Chair Morishige; a representative from the Department of the Attorney General; representatives from the Continua of Care for the City & County of Honolulu and Hawaii Island; and a representative from the Department of Human Services.

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

c. Discussion and possible action regarding appointment of HICH members, in according with House Bill 83, to a working group to discuss the issue of safe-zones for homelessness pursuant to HRS §92-2.5 (b)(2).

Chair Morishige provided background related to this action item. The Hawaii State Legislature passed Act 212, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 (HB83), which requires the council in conjunction with and with the advisement of the Department of Human Services and Department of Land & Natural Resources, to establish a working group to examine and develop recommendations related to the establishment of safe zones for persons experiencing homelessness. A copy of the Act was distributed to all members.

Motion to establish a working group pursuant to H.R.S. §92-2.5 and in accordance with Act 212, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, to discuss and make recommendations regarding the issue of safe zones for homelessness.

Ms. Toby Portner made the motion, and Deputy Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata seconded. The suggested composition of the working group includes Chair Morishige; a representative from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; a representative from the faith-based community; a representative from the Department of Public Safety; and a representative from the Department of Human Services. In addition, the work group will work in conjunction with a representative from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Executive Director Alexander asked a question about what would happen if the council did not recommend the adoption and implementation of safe zones for people experiencing homelessness.

The Chair replied that the work group is to discuss and explore this issue. A recommendation will be made after close examination of multiple factors and the solicitation of input from the community.

The Chair asked if there were further questions or discussion. Seeing none, the Chair called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Discussion of Senate Bill 895, which establishes the offense of criminal trespass onto state lands to the penal code, and amends the offense of criminal trespass in the second degree to apply to government agricultural property regardless of whether it is fenced, enclosed, or otherwise secured.

The Chair provided background on SB 895, which passed the legislature and is currently pending signature from the Governor. The bill establishes the offense of criminal trespass onto state lands to the penal code, and amends the offense of criminal trespass in the second degree to apply to government agricultural property regardless of whether it is fenced, enclosed, or otherwise secured. A copy of the bill was distributed to council members. The Chair has invited the Department of the Attorney General to explain and provide a brief overview of the new law.

Presentation by Deputy Attorney General Lance Goto.

Deputy Attorney General Lance Goto introduced himself and provided a brief explanation of the bill, and penalties for violation. Deputy Attorney General Goto clarified that the intent of the legislation is not to criminalize homelessness or to restrict cultural practices.

Discussion.

Executive Director Alexander directed a question to Ms. Miller from the USICH regarding her thoughts on the bill, and the potential impact of criminalizing the activities of homeless persons.

Ms. Miller responded that the USICH has taken a position opposing the criminalization of homelessness. According to Ms. Miller, when communities begin to criminalize the activities of homeless individuals it sets the community ten steps backwards in its efforts to address the issue. She emphasized the need for communities not just to displace individuals from one area to another, but to invest in shelter and housing resources to address the situation of homelessness.

VI. Permitted Interaction Group.

- a. Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to review HICH structure and make recommendations.**

The Chair provided an update on HICH structure was established in 2016 to provide guidance on the structure of this council. It has been an important issue to get information out to council members in a timely manner. PIG has not met in a few months, but want to balance the work that is already being done to help streamline the process.

- b. Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to review and develop a sustainability plan for the Hawaii Pathways Project (HPP).**

The Chair provided an update on the review of the sustainability plan. Chair stated that he met and worked with provider and City and County of Honolulu to identify supportive housing.

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

The Chair concluded this PIG. Point In Time count numbers were released and Partners In Care and Bridging the Gap were able to mobilize volunteers while working closely with Region Leads for the PIT.

- d. Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to review and support the implementation of a Coordinated Entry System (CES) to comply with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements.**

Chair Morishige noted that CES PIG to comply with HUD requirements. First meeting was done with state agencies to intersect. DOE is in dialog with DHS to input data into HMIS to ensure data quality with support CES.

VII. General Announcements

A. Chairperson and Staff Reports: March/April/May 2017

- Accomplishments / Highlights
- Planned Activities

The Chair referred to a handout entitled "Highlights of Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness Staff Activities, Monthly Report for March/April/May 2017."

Chair Morishige highlighted that his office has been in coordination with MedQuest around the 1115 waiver for housing. CSH staff was here in mid-April 2017, and we will continue to discuss data with CSH.

The Chair also highlighted site visits to Houston, Texas; Since they have made great progress by increasing housing resources. Texas CoC is in communication with local CoC. Chair also attended the Corporation for Supportive Housing annual summit in Denver, Colorado.

Hawaii is a community being looked at because of the progress we have been making.

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

Chair Morishige acknowledged that Speaker of the House of Representatives, Scott Saiki has appointed Representative John M. Mizuno to serve as the primary member and Representative Cedric A. Gates to serve as the alternate member.

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

Chair Morishige acknowledged that Senate President, Ronald Kouchi has signed a designation letter for Senator Green as the primary and Senator Breene Harimoto as the alternate.

- D. Written reports from council members.**

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

VIII. Executive session.

Chair Morishige determined there is no need to enter executive session at this time.

IX. Topics for upcoming meetings.

The Chair asked members for suggestions on topics for upcoming meetings. There was no further discussion. Members were encouraged to contact the Community Engagement Specialist prior to the next meeting with any suggestions or feedback.

X. Meeting schedule.

Chair Morishige reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2017. The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Honolulu International Airport in the Interisland Terminal, Conference Rooms 3 & 4.

XI. Adjourn.

Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Ms. Menino, and seconded by Ms. Stasch. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes prepared by:



9-18-17

Tamah-Lani S. K. Noh
Community Engagement Specialist

Date

Gov

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at their Regular Meeting on
September 18, 2017: [] As Presented [] As Amended



Scott S. Morishige, MSW
Chair

9/18/17

Date