

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)

Joint In-Person and MS Teams Virtual Meeting and Teleconference

1390 Miller St. Conference Room 1 Honolulu, HI 96813

Monday, September 19, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Council Attendees:

Mr. Scott Morishige	Chair
Ms. Lila King for	Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS)
Mr. Harold Brackeen III	Administrator of the Homeless Programs Office of DHS
Mr. Tommy Johnson for	Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD)
Mr. Francis Keeno for	Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
Ms. Cynthia Rezendes for	Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)
Mr. Capsun Poe for	Chair of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
Ms. Erin Yamashiro for	Attorney General (AG)
Ms. Toby Portner for	Superintendent, Department of Education (DOE)
Director Hakim Ouansafi	Executive Director, Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA)
Director Lori Tshukako for	Mayor of the County of Maui
Ms. Ailina Laborte for	Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu
Ms. Ashton Varner for	Mayor of the County of Kauai
Ms. Sharon Hirota for	Mayor of the County of Hawaii
Mr. Mark Chandler	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
Mr. Art Minor for	Office of Community Planning & Development
Ms. Kristen Alice	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Ms. Maude Cumming	Continuum of Care for the County of Hawaii
Ms. Makana Kamibayashi	Continuum of Care for the County of Maui
Ms. Laura Thielen	Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai
Pastor Daniel Kaneshiro	Continuum of Care for the County of Honolulu
	Faith-based Community Representative

Absent:

Director or designee for Department of Health (DOH); Director or designee for Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR); Adjutant General or designee for Department of Defense (DoD); Representative from the Hawaii State House of Representatives; Representative from the Hawaii State Senate; Business Community Representative

Staff:

Mr. Justin Limasa, Homelessness Assistant; Ms. Emma Grochowsky, Homelessness Special Assistant; Ms. Cheryl Bellisario, Homelessness Administrative Assistant; Ms. Lili Young, Deputy Attorney General

Special Guests:

- I. **Call to Order. Taking of the Roll [0:00].** Roll was taken and there was a quorum established with 19 out of 27 members. The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m. by the Chair.

[7:12] Chair Morishige welcomed everyone and reviewed several general housekeeping items related to the joint in-person and virtual teleconference platform. Attendees were asked to keep their device on 'mute' unless speaking, and members were asked to notify staff when leaving the meeting. The Chair reminded speakers to announce themselves before speaking and to use the "raise hand" feature as appropriate. The Chair reminded members that they will be required to have their cameras 'on' for the duration of the meeting. Members and attendees were informed of the in-person meeting location located at 1390 Miller St., Conference Room 1. The Chair reminded attendees that the meeting will be recorded and will be available at <http://homelessness.hawaii.gov>.

- II. **Overview and Approval of Agenda [9:26]**. The Chair presented the agenda for review and requested a motion to approve the agenda.

[10:54] Ms. Tshako moved and [11:04] Ms. Rezendes seconded to approve the agenda as presented. [11:08] Seeing no additions or corrections at this time, the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- III. **Approval of Minutes [11:27]**. The Chair reminded members that the July 18, 2022, meeting minutes were available electronically. The Chair provided time for members to review the minutes and asked if there were any additions or corrections.

[12:41] Ms. Tshako moved and [12:56] Ms. Laborte seconded to approve the minutes as presented. [13:05] Seeing no additions or corrections at this time, the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- IV. **Public Testimony [13:18]**. Chair Morishige opened the floor to public testimony on any agenda item and reminded attendees that public testimony will also be accepted after each agenda item under 'New Business' and 'Continuing Business.' There was none.

- V. **New Business [14:07]**.

- a. **Discussion regarding the utilization of Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) statewide, and the impact of EHVs on the homelessness system. [14:15]**

Presentation by Ms. Laura Thielen (Partners in Care, Oahu Continuum of Care) and Ms. Maude Cumming (Bridging the Gap) [14:37].

[14:37] Ms. Thielen provided an update on the status of Oahu Emergency Housing Vouchers. A total of 182 EHVs through the Hawaii Public Housing Authority were made available beginning in October 2021, and another 312 EHVs through the City & County of Honolulu were made available beginning in May 2022. Partners in Care (PIC), representing the Oahu Continuum of Care, is partnering with both Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to administer the EHVs.

The priority for HPHA EHVs was to implement a move-on strategy for formerly homeless households who had been leased up through another program and still needed ongoing housing assistance payments with fewer intensive services. The City & County of Honolulu is reviewing 10 applications per week.

Ms. Thielen highlighted the challenges with obtaining all required documents for the EHV program, which can be 25 individual pieces of documentation or more. These documents are required by the PHAs and can pose a barrier for people who have lost their documents. PIC has implemented a move-on strategy for appropriate households who are already in permanent supportive housing programs. Identifying scattered-site units for those moving into new units continues to be an ongoing challenge for the PIC Landlord Engagement Program team.

Question and Answer

[19:06] Ms. Rezendes asked which documents were the most challenging to obtain.

- [19:13] Ms. Thielen stated that documents such as verification of income and assets, along with vital documents from other states, can be especially difficult. Ms. Thielen also noted that the benefit of acquiring these documents can put households in a better position for other housing programs in the future if they are not selected for the EHV program.

[20:26] The Chair provided additional background information about the creation of the EHV program and required partnerships between the local PHAs and Continua of Care. The Chair also noted that the population of people who are at-risk of homelessness can be a challenge for homeless service providers.

- [21:43] Ms. Thielen added that the at-risk population continues to be a gap because homeless service providers are contracted to work with people experiencing homelessness. For those on the verge of homelessness or housing instability, there may be difficulty connecting with programs designated for people who are literally homeless. In addition, the EHV process can be difficult to navigate without a case manager.

[24:03] The Chair thanked Ms. Thielen and stated that the EHV program has been a learning experience for all parties who were tasked with working together.

[24:53] Ms. Cumming echoed the statements made by Ms. Thielen, clarifying that Bridging the Gap (BTG) elected not to prioritize those who were at-risk of homelessness. BTG is prioritizing literally homeless or recently homeless (i.e. became housed within the last 12 months through CES and able to transition to EHV). Every island has a different percentage of how many literally homeless and recently homeless households they have enrolled in the EHV program. Document readiness is a CoC priority regardless of EHV placement.

Maui County was issued 76 vouchers, with 25 currently leased and 9 pending. Hawaii County was issued 110 vouchers, with 29 currently leased and 26 pending. Kauai County was issued 28 vouchers, with 9 leased and 12 pending. BTG is confident that they will be able to utilize all EHV's before the lease-up deadline of September 30th, 2023.

Question and Answer

[26:51] The Chair asked both presenters to share information about unit inventory and landlord recruitment challenges, especially for units within the Fair Market Rent range.

- [27:26] Ms. Cumming stated that BTG incentivizes landlords with a remediation fund and affirmatively outreaches landlords who may have units available in the future. Unit search continues to remain a challenge due to low inventory count.
- [28:23] Ms. Thielen added that PIC's Landlord Engagement Specialists work together to share information about units that might not work for one program, but could work for another. Identifying vacant units is a challenge that is increasing every day.

[29:01] The Chair asked both presenters to comment on the turnaround time for mandatory unit inspections, noting that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority offered specialized training for PIC staff to assist with unit inspections.

- [29:56] Ms. Thielen confirmed that HPHA offered an opportunity for PIC staff to be trained in the HUD Housing Quality Standards (HQS) unit inspection procedures, which allowed inspections to be accelerated. The City & County of Honolulu conducted all of their own inspections.
- [30:41] Ms. Cumming stated that the neighbor island PHAs did not have an opportunity to train outside staff in the inspection process, but added that remote inspections were helpful.

[31:02] The Chair thanked both CoCs for their dedication and flexibility throughout the EHV process. The Chair displayed Hawaii's EHV utilization on the [HUD EHV Data Dashboard](#), noting that many other communities appear to be experiencing similar lease-up challenges. The Chair noted that understanding the lessons learned from the EHV implementation will be important if HUD continues to issue new vouchers with PHA and CoC partnerships.

[32:44] Mr. Ouansafi stated that the EHV program was a new endeavor for HPHA and came with a different set of requirements. HPHA is grateful to the CoC for their hard work and flexibility throughout the process.

Mr. Johnson's attendance was noted at 10:25 am. Quorum was updated to reflect 20 out of 27 members present. Mr. Chandler joined the meeting at 10:38 a.m. Quorum was updated to reflect 21 out of 27 members present.

b. Discussion regarding Homelessness Awareness and educational activities planned for Homelessness Awareness Month and Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in November 2022. [33:35]

Presentation by Ms. Cheryl Bellisario (Office on Homelessness & Housing Solutions), Ms. Kristen Alice (HOPE Services Hawaii), Ms. Laura Thielen (Partners in Care, Oahu Continuum of Care), and Ms. Ashton Varner (Kauai County Housing Agency) [33:47].

[34:07] Ms. Bellisario introduced herself, Ms. Kristen Alice, and Ms. Ashton Varner.

[34:57] Ms. Varner recognized Ms. Bellisario for her advocacy coordination and organization throughout the year. Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week occurs in November, typically the week before Thanksgiving, and the State of Hawaii recognizes the entire month of November as Homeless Awareness Month. In addition, Hawaii island specifically recognizes Hawaii Housing Month.

[36:30] Ms. Alice provided a background on the goals for November's advocacy events, including a call to dispel some of the myths about why people become homeless and who is experiencing homelessness. This came out of local recommendations from Community Alliance Partners members who wanted to focus on local resources and initiatives in the community. In addition, the decision to recognize Hawaii Housing Month is critical because housing is essential to ending homelessness.

[39:12] Ms. Alice provided an overview of Hawaii Housing Month advocacy campaigns, including:

- Social media awareness regarding affordable housing disparities, including data and roundtable interviews showing the disparity between the average wage earner and the cost of living in Hawaii.
- West Hawaii Luncheon at the Old Kona Airport on November 3rd.
- Discussions with members of the Finland delegation who traveled to the Social Housing Festival on November 15th and 16th, including leaders from Finland who have implemented successful policies to reach "functional zero" for homelessness.

Ms. Alice stressed the importance of offering opportunities to bring people with lived experience and members of the public together to have an open dialogue.

[44:15] Ms. Bellisario provided an overview of events on Maui during the month of November, including:

- Mayor's Proclamation on November 14th.
- Sign waving in central and west Maui on November 15th.

- Candlelight vigil for those who have passed away while experiencing homelessness on November 16th.
- The Patrick Foyle Resource Fair at The Salvation Army on November 17th.

[47:09] Ms. Thielen provided an overview of events on Oahu during the month of November, including:

- Sign waving and rally at the Hawaii State Capitol on November 15th (tentative).
- Kakaako resource and service fair on November 16th (tentative).
- Discussions with members of the Finland delegation from November 16th through November 19th.
- Homelessness Awareness & Housing Solutions Conference at the Koolau Ballrooms on November 18th.

Ms. Thielen reminded attendees that registration for the Homelessness Awareness & Housing Solutions Conference is still open. Other events during the week are free of charge and community stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

[50:06] Ms. Varner provided an overview of events on Kauai during the month of November, including:

- Mayor's Proclamation and recognition of the work of homeless service providers on November 14th.
- Sign waving on the County lawn on the afternoon of November 14th.
- Project Housing Connect at The Salvation Army in Hanapepe on November 16th and at The Salvation Army in Lihue on November 17th. In addition to existing homeless service providers, this event attracts some agencies that may not be able to do outreach or free services throughout the year, such as the Humane Society and other local businesses.

[52:56] Ms. Bellisario highlighted the importance of storytelling opportunities and roundtable interviews with stakeholders. Another planned activity is a sign-on letter with media coverage, similar to previous efforts to urge the Hawaii State Legislature to support funding for homeless services and housing. This is increasingly important this year as some funding for homeless services has been replaced by non-renewable American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. In addition, CoC stakeholders are planning to write editorial pieces for local media.

Mr. Brackeen III left the meeting at 10:53 a.m. Quorum was updated to reflect 20 out of 27 members present. Mr. Brackeen III returned at 10:55 a.m. Quorum was updated to reflect 21 out of 27 members present. Mr. Chandler left the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Quorum was updated to reflect 20 out of 27 members present.

[57:57] The Chair thanked the presenters and noted members who joined and exited the meeting. The Chair reminded members that their cameras must remain 'on' for the duration of the meeting for their attendance to be counted.

Presentation by Chair Morishige (OHHS) [59:00].

The Chair provided an overview of Section 8-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which designates the month of November as "Homelessness Awareness Month" to promote public awareness of homelessness as a significant societal, public health and welfare, and public housing shortage problem.

The Chair added that the Statewide Homelessness Awareness & Housing Solutions Conference is on November 18th and reminded attendees of the various events planned around the conference. The Chair recognized the work of PIC and the CoC Awareness Chairs who planned the conference.

VI. **Continuing Business [1:01:21].**

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. [1:01:21]**

The Chair reminded the Council of the revisions to the Ten-Year Strategic Plan to incorporate the three basic levers of change, including focusing on competencies among frontline providers, building leadership capacity, and focusing on organizational drivers.

Presentation by Ms. Emma Grochowsky (Office on Homelessness & Housing Solutions) [1:03:11].

Ms. Grochowsky provided an overview of the FY23 update to the Homeless Services Fiscal Map. The purpose of the fiscal mapping project is to provide an overview of government funding for homeless services, identify trends, gaps, and impacts, and support funder and stakeholder collaboration. The map reflects services and programs that exclusively serve people experiencing homelessness or those who are at imminent risk of homelessness, along with essential administrative functions (e.g. HMIS, CES, etc.).

The FY23 update includes many updated contract amounts, though some amounts were unchanged from the previous year. State and City & County of Honolulu Grant-in-Aid projects for homelessness were also included. In addition, funders were asked to indicate whether American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were used to replace any gaps in general funds.

The fiscal mapping project yields several system-level observations:

- Funding for permanent housing and shelters remains high. Approximately \$2 of every \$3 in government funding for homeless services is for permanent housing or shelters.
- ARPA has replaced general funds shortfalls for some services. For two State funders who reported ARPA allocations for existing programs, ARPA funds made up approximately one-third of their funding for homeless services.
- Contract funding is only one piece of the puzzle. The value of other types of contributions, including mainstream resources with a homeless preference, buildings and land, in-kind services, and fee-for-service reimbursements (e.g. Medicaid), is difficult to capture.

While every effort is made to capture all known sources of funding for homeless services, data is based on publicly available records and funder disclosures. Capturing accurate funding levels for programs that provide multiple services may be difficult. Funding allocations for any program type are not considered a reflection of the importance or effectiveness of the program.

A demonstration of the FY23 Homeless Services Fiscal Map [dashboard](#) was provided. Within the coming days, there will be slight changes to better drill down some funding allocations, particularly for the neighbor islands.

[1:11:31] The Chair thanked Ms. Grochowsky and added that OHHS will do its best to work with any incoming staff during the change of administration to ensure activities like the fiscal mapping project will continue. The Chair added that the focus on ARPA allocations will be very important, especially as the sustainability of programs comes into question.

Presentation by Ms. Emma Grochowsky (Office on Homelessness & Housing Solutions) [1:12:51].

Ms. Grochowsky provided an overview of the findings of the OHHS report on “Non-Traditional Housing for People Exiting Homelessness: Lessons Learned and Best Practices.” The report was produced by Harvard Kennedy School fellow Lindsay Apperson, who spent the summer with OHHS. Ms. Grochowsky recognized Ms. Apperson’s work on the report and the contributions of developers, property managers, service providers, and government stakeholders who were interviewed.

Non-traditional housing projects surveyed for the report included prefabricated units, modular units, tiny homes, repurposed buildings, and SRO conversions of traditional homes. All 11 projects were exclusively for people exiting homelessness and the report focused on lessons learned from three key phases: development, operations, and services.

Stakeholders engaged in the development process were asked questions related to the planning and construction of units. Developers generally agreed that the use of waivers and exemptions allowed projects to be built faster, saving time and overall cost. However, the use of temporary waivers limits the replicability of projects and may result in some projects being incompatible with other funding sources. The decisions to save costs upfront may result in longer-term costs in the form of maintenance, repair, or replacement.

Property managers were asked about operational costs and activities, including the determination of rent and utility costs. Because most projects served households in the 0-50% AMI range and priced their rent amounts accordingly, rent revenue alone was not sufficient to cover all operating costs. Several projects appreciated the flexibility in tenant selection, accepting referrals from their respective CoC’s By-Name List and directly from providers and applicants. This resulted in better tenant recruitment for housing projects with very specific configurations or eligibility requirements. Finally, some project budgets included one-time operational funding that will need to be replaced upon expiration.

All projects offered a level of supportive services to residents. Case management services were essential to ensuring residents had the wraparound services necessary to navigate the transition from homelessness and to problem-solve situations that arise during tenancy. Community-building, especially in congregate settings, is also important to build relationships and help some residents overcome isolation. Similarly to operational funding, some projects will need to identify ongoing sources of funding for services.

The report identifies several key recommendations related to development, operations, and services:

- Emphasize the importance of permanent legislative methods to expedite the development of projects addressing homelessness and affordable housing.
- Prioritizing building with materials readily available locally to minimize supply chain issues and increased costs of repair and maintenance.
- Incentivize developers to consult with the project’s target population, community members, property managers, and providers.
- Ensure projects have a source of ongoing operational funding.
- Include a contingency fund in operations or property management contracts to provide a safety net for non-profit property managers.
- Consider partnerships between agencies to share expertise and risk.
- Identify sources of funding to diversify revenue streams for supportive services, such as Medicaid Community Integration Services.
- Continue and expand targeted services for specific subpopulations.

OHHS is thankful to all stakeholders who contributed to this report and will be continuing to present these lessons learned.

[1:28:34] The Chair thanked Ms. Grochowsky and noted that the lessons learned through this project complement other initiatives to advance the development of truly affordable housing for people with very low incomes.

VII. **Permitted Interaction Group. [1:29:11]**

None.

VIII. **General Announcements [1:29:11].**

A. Chairperson and Staff Reports: August / September 2022 [1:29:28]

[1:29:28] The Chair highlighted several key focus areas in the past quarter:

- **[1:29:37] Establishment and facilitation of a supportive housing work group.**
 - Staff continue to facilitate a monthly Supportive Housing Work Group meeting for interested stakeholders. The goal for this group is to produce a case statement for the scaling of supportive housing statewide for vulnerable subpopulations. The next meeting is on September 20th, 2022. Please contact cheryl.a.bellisario@hawaii.gov to be added to the meeting.
- **[1:30:40] Eviction prevention resources updated.**
<http://homelessness.hawaii.gov/eviction-prevention>
 - The OHHS website has been updated with the latest eviction prevention resources. OHHS is receiving an increased number of inquiries regarding eviction prevention and rental assistance.
- **[1:31:22] Report on non-traditional housing for people exiting homelessness.**
 - The Chair reminded members that the report on non-traditional housing for people exiting homelessness will be available online.
- **[1:31:34] Overview of county-level special funds for housing and homelessness.**
<http://homelessness.hawaii.gov/wp-content/2022/07/County-funds-slides-June-2022.pdf>
 - OHHS staff are continuing to map out county-level funding streams that can be used for affordable housing and homelessness.

[1:32:11] The Chair summarized the four performance benchmarks used to evaluate the implementation of the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness for the current quarter (as of July 2022). Green color codes beside these metrics indicate a positive change since the last period. Yellow color codes indicate no change since the last period. Red color codes indicate a negative change since the last period.

- **[1:33:51] PIT Count:** 5,973 people (2022 PIT Count)
 - 2022 PIT Count reflects an overall 7.5% decrease statewide and is the lowest count since 2010. Oahu and Maui saw slight decreases, and Hawaii and Kauai saw slight increases.
 - Many of the decreases are driven by decreases in family homelessness and sheltered homelessness.
 - Increases in both CoCs were driven primarily by unsheltered homelessness among single adults and adult-only households.
 - PIT Count trends following the last economic recession resulted in a gradual increase in homelessness of 36% overall. Stakeholders should continue to be mindful of the long-term impacts of the economy on homelessness.

- Some of the efforts that contributed to the eventual decreases in homelessness included increasing housing inventory, either through permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing, and increasing investments at both the State and federal levels.
- **[1:36:03] Housing Inventory Count:** 4,984 beds (2022 HIC inventory)
 - Since 2015, the composition of the HIC has changed significantly, with large increases in emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing beds. At the same time, there was a reduction in transitional shelter and transitional housing due to changing federal priorities.
 - 2022 includes a category of “other permanent housing,” which includes newer types of permanent housing like the EHV program. At the time that the HIC was completed, the City & County of Honolulu’s allocation of 312 vouchers was not yet completed.
- **[1:37:57] Housing Inventory Count: Changes in Emergency Shelter Beds Over Time** (2022 HIC Inventory)
 - Emergency shelter beds on both Oahu and the neighbor islands increased over time.
- **[1:38:14] Housing Inventory Count: Changes in PSH Beds Over Time** (2022 HIC Inventory)
 - The number of PSH beds over time has also increased, including a significant increase between 2015 and 2016.
 - Increasing the number of PSH beds is critical to addressing people who have both a history of homelessness and disabling medical or behavioral health conditions.
- **[1:38:55] Permanent Housing Placements:** 33% exits to PH on Oahu and 46% exits to PH on the neighbor islands (Jan – July 2022)
 - The percentage of exits to permanent housing has declined since 2020.
 - There are also fewer exits in the system overall. In 2021, the average number of people exiting any homeless program was over 1,200. In 2022, that number has averaged around 850 people per month.
 - Fewer exits to permanent housing may be correlated with a lack of housing inventory and a market flooded with non-homeless households who have been using rental assistance vouchers.
- **[1:41:50] Exits to Permanent Housing by Program Type and County** (Jan – July 2022)
 - Overall, it has been challenging for programs of all types to exit people into permanent housing.
 - One possible explanation for higher rates of exits to permanent housing directly from the streets on the neighbor islands is the lower overall count of shelter beds.
- **[1:42:50] Emergency Shelter Length of Stay** (Jan – July 2022)
 - As of July 2022, the average length of stay in emergency shelters was:
 - 124 days on Oahu
 - 195 days on Maui
 - 130 days on Kauai
 - 98 days on Hawaii island
- **[1:44:37] Transitional Shelter Length of Stay** (Jan – July 2022)
 - As of July 2022, the average length of stay in transitional shelters:
 - 306 days on Oahu
 - N/A days on Maui
 - 262 days on Kauai
 - 593 days on Hawaii island

B. Written Reports from Council Members [1:44:54].

The following written updates are provided for the Council's consideration and review (the full write-ups for each representative are included in the meeting packet and meeting slide deck):

- *Department of Human Services (DHS) and Homeless Programs Office (HPO)*
- *Department of Health (DOH)*
- *Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR)*
- *Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT)*
- *Department of Public Safety*
- *Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)*
- *Department of Defense (DOD)*
- *Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)*
- *Department of the Attorney General*
- *Department of Education*
- *Hawaii State House of Representatives*
- *Hawaii State Senate*
- *Hawaii Public Housing Authority*
- *City & County of Honolulu*
- *County of Kauai*
- *County of Maui*
- *County of Hawaii*
- *Continuum of Care for Hawaii Island*
- *Continuum of Care for Maui*
- *Continuum of Care for Kauai*
- *Continuum of Care for Oahu (Partners in Care)*
- *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*
- *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*
- *Faith-based community*
- *Business community*

[1:45:02] The Chair offered Ms. Rezendes an opportunity to provide additional information regarding DHHL's Strategic Plan and other initiatives.

[1:45:27] Ms. Rezendes encouraged attendees to view the strategic plan on DHHL's website at: <http://dhhl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/C-4-Ex-A-Act-279-Prelim-Strategic-Approach-Aug-2022.pdf>. This plan must be submitted to the Legislature by December 2022.

Ms. Rezendes noted that many of these investments will be in infrastructure investments, adding that DHHL has land that cannot be used for housing until the infrastructure needs are met. Developing the necessary infrastructure will help to allow beneficiaries to build their own homes if they are eligible. Other notable challenges include the capacity of existing contractors and vendors to help complete the work within the time allotted. DHHL is partnering with other State organizations to do a planning survey again this year.

[1:50:12] The Chair also noted that an update of DHHL's rent and mortgage relief programs is provided in the packet and that an RFP will be released soon to rehabilitate a Kalaeloa property to be used for beneficiaries experiencing homelessness.

[1:51:29] Ms. Rezendes added that DHHL's data-sharing agreement with BTG has been signed and DHHL will begin working on analyzing their PIT Count data as soon as possible.

[1:52:04] The Chair thanked Ms. Rezendes for her work on the data-sharing agreements and summarized updates from the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding their expanded eligibility for some VA housing programs.

[1:52:25] The Chair summarized updates from the Hawaii State Senate, recognizing the County of Kauai's efforts to build housing for people in the 30-60% AMI range.

[1:52:47] The Chair summarized updates from Community Alliance Partners, highlighting the funding from the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg foundation that allowed CAP to organize in-person professional development trainings with staff from OrgCode Consulting. CAP is also continuing to work on advocacy related to Ordinance 22-26, which allows a percentage of taxes on luxury second homes to be allocated toward housing and homelessness. Most ESG-CV programs are winding down, with the exception of the Ka Lamaku emergency shelter. The County issued an RFP to continue shelter operations through June 2023.

[1:54:16] The Chair summarized updates from the County of Kauai, including the County's efforts to continue processing housing voucher applications for multiple programs and using CDBG funds to replace the aging septic system at the Kauai Economic Opportunity emergency shelter. The shelter is now connected to the municipal water system and will be able to increase capacity in the future. Other updates include the creation of mental health flow charts and resources with the help of a summer intern, the use of ARPA funds for one-time outreach support expenses, and a schedule for future housing development.

[1:55:56] Ms. Varner added that the County recently issued a press release detailing the changes to the CRUA rental assistance program, which is now available on their website at: http://www.kauai.gov/Portals/0/Mayor/PIO/PR_2022-09-15Countysrentalutilityassistanceprogramerterstransitionalphase.pdf?ver=2022-09-15-134718-213.

[1:56:06] The Chair summarized updates from the County of Maui, including the issuance of an RFP for the Maui County Strategic Homeless Plan.

[1:56:43] Ms. Tsuhako added that the RFP is now posted.

[1:56:52] The Chair recognized Mr. Johnson's departure and added that Bill 108, permitting the use of vehicles for human habitation at County parking lots, was passed and a site in central Maui has been identified. The County is also working on a medical outreach program using federal funds and is hoping to complete landscaping work at Huliau in the near future.

[1:57:44] The Chair summarized updates from the County of Hawaii. The Office of Housing and Community Development will be presenting its Strategic Roadmap on Homelessness and Housing to the Hawaii County Council tomorrow. Following the presentation, the County plans to issue an RFP with plans to have contracts in place by early 2023. Operations at facilities such as the Keolahou Emergency Shelter and the Ulu Wini Assessment Center are ongoing.

[1:58:39] The Chair summarized updates from the City & County of Honolulu. The City's HONU program recently transitioned to a location near Middle St. and has served a total of 65 individuals since August 5th. The City is working to update its action plan to address the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and the City Council recently approved the continued management of five Special Needs housing projects.

[1:59:33] The Chair summarized updates from Bridging the Gap and Partners in Care (Oahu Continuum of Care). The primary focus of both CoCs has been the Special and Regular NOFO process for HUD CoC funds.

[2:00:08] Ms. Thielen added that PIC's goal is to bring in an additional \$2.5M annually to the Oahu Continuum of Care through the Special NOFO process.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Minor left the meeting at 12:02 p.m. Quorum was updated to reflect 18 of 27 members present.

IX. Topics for Upcoming Meetings [2:00:51]

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. Executive Session [2:01:04]

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. Meeting Schedule [2:01:10]

The following Council meetings are proposed for the 2022 calendar year:

- Monday, November 21st, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Chair noted that the December meeting has been moved to November 21st, 2022 due to the ending of the Chair's term.

XII. Adjourn [2:01:57]

Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn.

[2:02:05] Motion was made by Mr. Ouansafi and [2:02:10] seconded by Ms. Tsuhako.

[2:02:11] The Chair called for the question. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes prepared by:

Emma Grochowsky
Homelessness Special Assistant

Date

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at their Regular Meeting on November 21, 2022.

[] As Presented [] As Amended

Scott S. Morishige, MSW
Chair

Date