



Mission: Build partnerships and promote strong collaborative action to ensure all residents within the County have stable, safe, and healthy places to live.

Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) Policy Board Regular Meeting Minutes June 21, 2023; 3 pm

Call to Order/Welcome

Present: Heather Rodgers, Jaime Goldstein, JP Butler, Judy Hutchison, Justin Cummings, Kate Nester, Manu Koenig, Mariah Lyons, Martine Watkins, Susan True, Tamara Vides

Absent: Larry Imwalle, Lee Butler, Suzi Merriam, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None

Non-Agenda Public Comment

No public comment received.

Action Items (vote required)

1. Approval of Minutes: April 19, 2023, Regular Meeting
Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion to Approve: Judy Hutchison
Motion Seconded: Heather Rogers
Abstentions: None
Board Action: Motion passed with all members.

Information Items (no vote required):

2. Casa Azul – Housing Matters Ribbon Cutting – Thursday, June 22, 2023, from 2-4 pm
Discussion: Discussed that Housing Matters has announced an upcoming ribbon cutting and grand opening event for Casa Azul, a new supportive housing residence with seven units, two one-bedroom apartments, and five studios. The event will occur on June 22nd from 2 pm to 4 pm at 801 River Street in Santa Cruz, California. Housing Matters and the County of Santa Cruz collaborated to apply for and secure \$2.4 million in Project Homekey Round 2 funding for the site. Private donors and health care partners also provided funding to support the development. Homekey funding will help ensure the site is dedicated to being used as supportive housing for a 55-year period. Construction is nearly completed, and tenants are scheduled to move-in soon. The site is targeting people with disabilities and long histories of homelessness.



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3. Monterey County – Encampment Resolution Fund Grant Award – approx. \$8M, two-year grant
Discussion: Discussed that the State of California Awarded the County of Monterey an \$8 million Encampment Resolution Funding grant. The Grant will fund the creation of a micro-village comprising 34 modular construction navigation center set to be established and managed in Watsonville. The project's primary objective is to facilitate the relocation of individuals residing on the Pajaro riverbed and assist them in securing permanent housing. Discussed that the administration of the Grant for the development of the site will be assumed by Monterey County, with Santa Cruz County taking responsibility for the project after the end of the two-year Encampment Resolution grant period.

Report/Discussion Items (no vote required):

4. Santa Cruz Workforce Development Board – State of Workforce Update – Housing and Employment Connections {3:20 – 4 pm}
Discussion: Andy Stone, Director of the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board, shared a PowerPoint presentation with a brief overview of the 2023 Santa Cruz County State of the Workforce report, potential areas for collaboration, and findings. Discussed how the economy of Santa Cruz County is rebounding from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and employment is recovering at a rate 5% higher than the statewide recovery rate. Mentioned that the Santa Cruz unemployment rate of 5.7% is still higher than the State and National average. Discussed how almost all employment growth occurred within the higher-paying industries. Mentioned that the percentage of residents in Santa Cruz County who are over 25 and hold a bachelor's degree is 41%. Discussed how research shows that individuals with lower levels of education are more likely to experience unemployment. Discussed how housing remains a significant concern in Santa Cruz County, as almost half of North County renters pay 35% or more of their total income on rent. Discussed how the significant rise in infrastructure and housing investments and the increased number of retirements will increase the demand for more workers in these sectors. Discussed significant healthcare workforce needs and that career pathways are available. Discussed how Santa Cruz County Workforce Development offers various services, including vocational training, transitional jobs, scholarships, and connections with employers. Mentioned that those earning less than \$40,000 annually, dislocated workers, and individuals aged 16 to 24 are eligible for assistance from Santa Cruz County Workforce. Discussed that The Public Defender's office provides free record clearance services that can work together with the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board to help increase employment. Discussed the need to provide training to enhance current workforce skills.



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5. California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) {4 – 4:30 pm}

Discussion: *Kate Nester, Program Development Manager at the Central California Alliance for Health, shared a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the Alliance’s involvement in the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program. Kate requested the Housing for Health Policy Board and CoC member feedback on how to allocate the potential funding earned through this program. Mentioned how HHIP aims to reduce and prevent homelessness and ensure Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) develop the necessary capacity and partnerships to connect members to needed housing services. Mentioned that statewide there is \$1.29 billion in one-time (HHIP) funds that will be used as incentive payments to MCPs to meet certain deliverables prior to December 2023. Discussed how the Central California Alliance is partnering with the Santa Cruz County CoC to submit the four required HHIP program submissions to the Department of Health Care Services. Mentioned that the HHIP required local homeless plan was submitted to the state in June 2022, followed by an initial investment plan submitted in September 2022. Mentioned that the Alliance submitted Round 1 HHIP performance reporting on February 2023 and is waiting to hear back on how much funding was earned. Round 2 reporting will be submitted in December 2023. The Alliance must achieve HHIP milestones and measures to earn funding, and they could receive up to \$5 million in the next allocation. If all HHIP funding is earned, the Alliance can earn up to \$14.6M. Mentioned HHIP funding may not be used for permanent housing. Since HHIP funds cannot pay for room and board discussed how to use HHIP funds to cover some services to potentially allow for other funds to get shifted to cover housing costs. Review potential ideas for uses of the funds including legal representation for tenants facing eviction, one-time rental or financial assistance, data sharing, outreach, and other services.*

6. California’s Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) Overview and Santa Cruz County Data {4:30 – 5 pm}

Discussion: *Robert Ratner, Director of the Housing for Health Division, shared a PowerPoint overview of California’s Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) and discussed the specific data available for Santa Cruz County through this system. Mentioned that HDIS established a data system that captures Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data from 44 CoCs throughout California. Mentioned that every 90 days, the CoCs send a comprehensive HMIS data file to the state. The state then manages and shares specific data with the public on its website. Additionally, more detailed private data is shared with designated staff members within the CoC. Discussed the importance of Santa Cruz County’s avoidance of data overload, emphasizing creating a public dashboard that would effectively*



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communicate the availability of programs, the outcomes of the programs, and the success stories of individuals who were previously experiencing homelessness.

Board Member Announcements

No additional announcements.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 3 pm

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