



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 April 19, 2023

Call to Order/Welcome

Present: Jamie Goldstein, JP Butler, Larry Imwalle, Manu Koenig, Justin Cummings, Mariah Lyons, Martine Watkins, Kate Nester, Suzi Merriam, Tamara Vides, Judy Hutchison

Absent: Heather Rogers, Lee Butler, Susan True, 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: February 15, 2023, Regular Meeting

Discussion: None.
Public Comment: None.
Motion to Approve: Martine Watkins
Motion Seconded: Manu Koenig
Abstentions: None
Board Action: Motion passed with all members.

2. Provide Guidance on Coordinated Entry Policy Updates, Approval of Housing for Health Partnership Connector MOU, and Approval of Steps to Set Housing Queue Threshold Scores (Coordinated Entry Policy Actions)

Discussion: Housing for Health (H4H) Division staff shared a PowerPoint presentation with Coordinated Entry System (CES) policy updates, Housing for Health Partnership Connectors Services Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and next steps for Threshold Scores to move participants to the Housing Queue. Discussed how the CES policy document that was established allows H4H staff to modify or refine the CE policy without Board Approval. Discussed the need for staff to develop a clear framework on how policy adjustments would be made between the Continuum of Care (CoC) Operations Committee, H4HP Policy Board, and H4H staff. Discussed the critical importance of the H4HP connectors through the presented MOU and their primary role to focus on a small number of people at a time to find housing solutions. The Connector Services MOU defines the responsibilities and expectations of the H4H Division, Covered Homeless Organization (CHO)/Provider Organization, and H4HP Connectors. Mentioned how the new CE policy revision will not work unless more connectors are identified and trained and in order to do that the Connector Services MOU needs to be approved. Discussed how the redesigned CES will put households



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

on the Housing Queue who have a high probability of being matched and referred to a CoC housing program within the next six months. Numbers added to the Queue is based on the following- (1) Available H4HP housing resources for each household type; (2) Household Eligibility Factors; (3) Number of households with completed HNA;(4) HNA scores. Discussed a plan to obtain more connectors and use the HNA process to place households on the Housing Queue (regardless of threshold scores) or refer them to other housing programs. Second, if from the HNA there are no eligible households to refer to the queue then households will be identified from the “retired” SmartPath Housing Queue that have a completed VI-SPDAT within the last 12 months. In Addition, H4H proposed an online program to link households, stakeholders, advocates with connectors by obtaining basic eligibility information and the type of household. Questions were raised on how to track the neediest population if queue is being shifted. Discussed how the coordinated entry enrollment program creates a profile in HMIS that includes the HNA information which H4HP staff can access. Mentioned that all veterans who are experiencing homeless will get referred to veteran-specific programs directly. Discussed the value of having trainings and monthly learning collaboratives with the connectors. Mention that managed care partners are examples of ways to expand Connector role.

Public Comment: *Mentioned concerns about becoming a connector is an unfunded additional job duty.*
Motion: *Approve H4H staff to make minor CES policy changes without board approval and to review changes made at future meetings. Approve H4HP Connectors services MOU. Approve next steps for Threshold Scores to move participants to the Housing Queue. Staff to develop a clear framework on how more substantive policy adjustments would be made between the Operations Committee, Policy Board, and H4H staff. H4HP staff to provide regular CES updates at Policy Board meetings.*

Motion to Approve: *Martine Watkins*
Motion Seconded: *Jaime Goldstein*
Abstentions: *None*
Board Action: *Motion passed with all members.*

Information Items (no vote required):

- 3. Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Funding – Application Due April 28, 2023 - \$10,171,130 available**
Discussion: *Reviewed plans for Californians who are experiencing homelessness with behavioral health conditions to get supportive services and housing navigation services if funding is approved. Discussed the plan to combine 25% of the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing funding with the County’s Whole Person Care housing funding to develop a modular construction housing project on county owned or secured property. Discussed how the other 75% of the funding will be*



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

used for operational cost for the new site for 3 years, a flexible funding pool that can be used for temporary housing, and some funding for staff oversight. Mentioned that when Care Court program starts those people will be prioritized for new program slots created.

4. FY 2022 HUD CoC Award Announcement for Santa Cruz County - \$5.57M (≈7% increase)

Discussion: *Discussed that the HUD CoC Awards from FY 2022 funded all 21 projects in our proposal including three new projects with Housing Matters, Walnut Avenue, and Monarch Services. Our CoC also received an unsheltered NOFO award near \$1.1M over three years to provide operational subsidies for 13 units at the planned Housing Matters Harvey West Studios permanent supportive housing project. Our community also received approval for our HHAP Round 4 application for approximately \$5.9M.*

Report/Discussion Items (no vote required):

5. Performance Metrics for Temporary Housing, Safe Sleeping, and Safe Parking Programs Last 12 Months

Discussion: *Reviewed data on emergency shelter, transitional housing, safe parking, and safe sleeping programs in the county over the past 12 months. Discussed the need for H4H staff to enforce policy on data quality which include 90-day updates for those enrolled in programs.*

6. Public Dashboards – Brainstorm Desired Information

Discussion: *Reviewed proposed key metrics to update every quarter and post on the Housing for Health website. Highlighted the importance to identify a success metric and inform the public how many people are getting housing, what is being offered and what is the cost for all services. Discussed need for more geographic information on locations of programs.*

Board Member Announcements

No additional announcements.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 3 pm**

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate based on disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefit of the services, programs, or activities. This meeting is in an accessible facility. If you are a person with a disability and require special assistance to participate in the meeting, please call (831) 763-8900 (TDD/TTY- 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.