



Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC)

January 30th, 2019 Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Davis – Davis Police Department – Community Room

MEETING ATTENDEES –

1. **Alysa Meyer***, Legal Services of Northern California
2. Amanda Ekman, County of Yolo - HHSA
3. **Bill Pride***, Davis Community Meals & Housing
4. Chris Bulkeley, Yolo County District Attorney
5. Craig Blomberg, Sutter Davis
6. Dan Maguire, City of Winters
7. **Dan Sokolow***, City of Woodland
8. Diane Clarke, Yolo Conflict Resolution Center
9. Don Bosley, Mercy Coalition
10. **Doug Zeck***, Fourth & Hope
11. Elaine Lytle, County of Yolo - HHSA
12. Elizabeth Mohrherr, Yolo Care Palliative Care
13. Erica Plumb, Mercy Housing
14. **Erin McEwen****, Yolo County Children's Alliance
15. Holly Wunder Stiles, Mutual Housing California
16. Ian Evans, County of Yolo - HHSA
17. Isabel Morales, Communicare Health Centers
18. **James McLeod****, Yolo Community Care Continuum
19. **Janis Holt***, Yolo County Housing
20. **Jeneba Lahai***, Yolo County Children's Alliance
21. Jennifer Longan, Communicare Health Centers
22. **Kathy Trott***, Woodland Opportunity Village
23. Kim Heuvelhorst, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency – Homeless Services
24. **Koy Saechao***, Turning Point Community Programs
25. **Kristen Cline****, City of Woodland
26. Liane Moody, Short Term Emergency Action Committee (STEAC)
27. **Linda Scott***, Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter of Davis (IRWS)
28. Lysette Marshovan, Senator Dodd's Office
29. **Mark Sawyer****, City of West Sacramento
30. **Martha Teeter***, Davis Opportunity Village
31. **Mary Anne Kirsch****, Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter of Davis (IRWS)
32. ME Gladis, Yolo Progressives
33. **Michael Tovar***, Shores of Hope
34. **Nadia Waggener****, County of Yolo - HHSA
35. **Niomi Michel****, Empower Yolo
36. **Nolan Sullivan***, County of Yolo - HHSA
37. Patrick Vancuren, Veterans Resource Center
38. Rachel Nervo, Veterans Affairs
39. Rick Armlin, Volunteers of America
40. **Ryan Collins***, City of Davis
41. Sandra Sigrist, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency – Adult and Aging

***Bold-type** indicates that the individual represented a Voting Board agency as either a primary (*) or secondary (**) voting designee*



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1. REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

HPAC unanimously approved the agenda with the amendment that Agenda Item #10 Camp Fire Discussion would be incorporated into Agenda Item #3 Introductions and Program Updates rather than being a separate agenda item.

- **Motion:** Janis Holt, Yolo County Housing
- **Second:** Martha Teeter, Davis Opportunity Village
- **Ayes:** Unanimous
- **Nays:** None
- **Abstentions:** None

2. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM 11/28/2018

Question: Is it accurate that there are so many abstention votes listed on the Item #4 CESH/HEAP Project Selection? Yes, this is accurate because the representatives listed were representing agencies that were conflicted in the CESH/HEAP Project Selection and thus ineligible to vote for this item.

Suggestion: To have the voting results in the minutes show the number of Aye and Nay votes. HPAC agreed to this changes.

HPAC unanimously approved the minutes with no amendments:

- **Motion:** Alys Meyer, Legal Services of Northern California
- **Second:** Martha Teeter, Davis Opportunity Village
- **Ayes:** Unanimous
- **Nays:** None
- **Abstentions:** None

3. INTRODUCTIONS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Meeting attendees shared updates from their programs:

- Kim Heuvelhorst, Yolo County HHSA – Reminder that the deadline to submit PIT Count surveys is tomorrow, January 31st.
- Sandra Sigrist, Yolo County HHSA – Housing for a Healthy California grant just released their final program guidelines. The RFP is expected soon.
- Amanda Ekman, Yolo County HHSA – Bringing Families Home grant is almost expended. In May, they will learn if the State will allocate additional funding. They are keeping a waiting list.
- Nadia Waggener, Yolo County HHSA – New staff: Hired one housing case manager and is planning to hire a second. Also hired a clinician.
- Niomi Michel, Empower Yolo –They have exhausted their homeless prevention funds and their rapid re-housing funds are very low so they are not taking any new intakes at this time.
- Alys Meyer, Legal Services of Northern CA –They have been helping to serve the victims of the Camp Fire by staffing the disaster resource center that had been in Chico but just moved to Paradise. They have seen 1200 households since opening. If any agency sees a Camp Fire victim who has migrated to Yolo County please direct them to Legal Services of Northern CA. They can provide information about all of the resources available through FEMA and the other agencies staffing the disaster resource center and can help with a wide range of civil legal matters. They are the legal services provider for disaster relief.



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- Janis Holt, Yolo County Housing –
 - Received funding for 20 housing units to be used for Camp Fire victims. They have received 3 referrals from Butte Housing thus far and one has been housed at Davis Migrant Center. Three other people are searching for housing in Yolo and two of those have been housed.
 - Will be sending out continued interest letters to the current Section 8 waiting list next week. Only sending letters to those that haven't had any activity in the last 12 months so if someone came on the list within the last 12 months they will probably not receive a letter and will not be impacted. With the letter, they are asking the client to indicate if they meet the criteria for either the new 22 Mainstream Vouchers or the 26 new Family Unification Vouchers (letter will list eligibility criteria for each). Will go through their existing waitlist first and then will open up waitlist for these special targeted voucher programs if needed.
- Rick Armlin, Volunteers of America – Grant was expanded to cover Butte County so they have staff in Chico serving the Camp Fire Victims. Actively working with veterans who are seeking employment and are receiving referrals from the Veterans Services Officers. They have many open positions for veterans seeking employment.
- James McLeod, Yolo Community Care Continuum – Filled one of their PSH beds and working to fill the other.
- Rachel Nervo, Veteran's Affairs – Filled their five initial HUD VASH vouchers, but continue to receive referrals in case vacancies occur. For Camp Fire victims there is some flexibility on some of the criteria for the vouchers.
- Diane Clarke, Yolo Conflict Resolution Center – Offering 30-hour conflict resolution and mediation training. Course is open to anyone wishing to hone their conflict resolution and communication skills. She distributed flyers. Agency is also available to provide training to other agencies. Interest agencies can contact Diane.
- Nolan Sullivan, Yolo County HHSA –
 - Office at 600A Street is now open to provide social services. CalWORKs is available MWF and 5 to 6 staff are there daily for other programs.
 - SSI Cash Out – CA passed legislation last year that allows SSI recipients to access CalFresh. Enrollment starts in May. Agencies that work with this population can contact Nolan to arrange a smooth transition.
 - CalWORKs HSP program has lots of funding. Homeless families can be referred to Elaine Lytle. State has given permission to buy non-permanent housing (tiny homes, trailers, mobile homes, shipping container homes etc.) up to \$25,000. Send ideas to Nolan.
 - General Assistance (GA) Resolution is in the process of being updated to provide more robust services. It will go to the Board of Supervisors in April. Nolan welcomes input from HPAC agencies.
 - Camp Fire – HHSA is working with Placer, El Dorado, Solano, and Sacramento in partnership with Butte County to do a structured Inter County Transfer process. They are distributing fliers that direct Paradise CalWORKs families to a welcome center in each of these counties where they can receive assistance with 'soft landing' in the new county.
 - Federal shutdown has impacted CalFresh benefits. February benefits were issued in early January so clients may have difficulty budgeting for food to the end of February.
- Dan Sokolow, City of Woodland – Provided an update on Woodland's Interfaith shelter which is located at St. Luke's Church and is in its fourth week. It houses 7 to 8 individuals nightly. While



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numbers are low, by having the Interfaith shelter in operation for women and families, Fourth and Hope is able to use their dining area to house additional single men who would otherwise be unsheltered. The Interfaith shelter will be open through early March.

- Jeneba Lahai, Yolo County Children's Alliance – Is the lead for a coalition of agencies throughout the county that are offering VITA which provides free tax preparation services to people with less than \$60,000 income. Sites are available in Woodland, Davis and West Sacramento. She will distribute flyers through the HPAC distribution list.
- Patrick Vancuren, Veteran's Resource Center – Is seeking letters of support from organizations. If interested, contact Patrick after the meeting.
- Holly Wunder Stiles, Mutual Housing California – Has obtained ownership of a property on 5th Street in Davis that was transferred to them by the student housing developer. Looking for financing to make this into an affordable housing site.
- Doug Zeck, Fourth and Hope – In partnership with the City of Woodland, County of Yolo and Yolo County Housing, they are staffing operations at the Extended Shelter across the street from the existing shelter and also helping to staff the Interfaith shelter in Woodland. Have added eight additional support staff in order to do this. Between the three shelters, up to 90 people are being sheltered nightly.
- Craig Blomberg, Sutter Davis Hospital –
 - SB 1152 legislation passed last year regarding coordination of discharge planning for homeless patients. Transition has been smooth, thanks in part to cooperation with the Interfaith Rotating Shelter.
 - Last August, Woodland Memorial Hospital and Sutter Davis Hospital partnered with YCCC to provide a medical shelter available for patients who are not appropriate to go directly to an emergency shelter. This is a two room home with 2 beds for males and 2 beds for female, and guests can stay up to 30 days. Ideally they are participating in a transition program concurrently. Priority is given to hospital discharge patients, but if space is available, referrals are accepted for any medically vulnerable person who is not appropriate for an emergency shelter.
- Lysette Marshovan, Senator Dodd's Office – Is open to offering whatever support they can to organizations seeking grants, updates about upcoming legislation etc.
- Ryan Collins, City of Davis –
 - New versions of the Health and Social Services guide are being printed. Trifold brochures and wallet size cards are available. Organizations serving clients in Davis may send requests for printed copies to Ryan.
 - City's jacket and winter coat drive was very successful. They received more than the Davis Homeless outreach program can use. Contact Ryan if your organization can use these.
 - New PT homeless services intern has joined his team.
 - On Tuesday, February 19th at 7 PM, the Davis City Council has an agenda item on the strategy and response to homelessness in the City. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. The meeting will be at the Davis City Hall 23 Russell Blvd. in Davis.
 - The department is grieving the loss of Officer Natalie Corona and has been thankful for the outpouring of support from the community. Davis PD remains committed to serving all members of the community with dignity and respect.



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4. GRANT UPDATES

Ian Evans, Yolo County HHSa provided an update about the following grants:

- Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) -
 - Award letter and standard agreement received.
 - HHSa in process of executing contract with Business Consumer Service and Housing agency (BCSH) and initiating contracts with sub-recipients.
 - All funds awarded in Round 1, so there will not be a Round 2 for HEAP.
- California Emergency Solutions & Housing (CESH) -
 - Award letter received.
 - Awaiting standard agreement.
 - When standard agreement received from Housing and Community Development (HCD), HHSa will work with them to:
 - Adjust the funding levels between projects to match the outcome of our local selection process.
 - Adjust the performance measures based on adjusted funding levels for each project.
 - This is necessary because the CESH application was due prior to the local selection process occurring.
- No Place Like Home (NPLH) –
 - Two project applications for Round 1 were submitted to HCD 1/29/19.
 - Thank you to the many partners involved. Each application was over 800 pages.
 - Round 2 dates are unknown at this time.
 - Yolo County Housing was able to award 75 project based vouchers total to the Woodland and West Sacramento projects combined.
 - Award notification is not anticipated until June 2019.
- Home Safe –
 - Submitted application for this grant which serves homeless individuals connected with Adult Protective Services.
 - Application was not awarded.
 - HHSa team conducted call with CDSS to discuss and receive feedback to strengthen application for future opportunities.
 - \$15 M was available statewide. Only about one third of the applications were awarded
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) –
 - 2018 funds should be ready soon. The federal government shutdown caused some delays.
 - 2019 Release date changed from June to March 29th. Due date will be late May or early June.
- Continuum of Care (CoC) -
 - 2018 awards announced by HUD
 - HPAC submitted 7 projects total, including 2 bonus projects. The 5 renewal projects were approved with a small increase above the previous year's amount
 - Providers should be receiving the contract directly from HUD
- Proposition 47 – Sandra Sigrist, Yolo County HHSa and Chris Bulkeley, Yolo County District Attorney's Office provided the following updates:



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- Round 1 –Yolo County has an existing grant from Round 1 funding. That program is called Steps to Success and is a collaboration between the District Attorney’s Office, the Public Defender, Probation, Legal Services of Northern CA, Communicare and HHS. The program provides a variety of diversion and related services for individuals who have a mental health or substance use condition (or both) AND an eligible criminal offense. It’s targeted towards misdemeanors but some felonies are also allowed. It includes a restorative justice component and intensive treatment support. The program is going well and goes through August 2021 plus a no cost extension. \$130 M was available statewide for Round 1. Steps to Success dedicated \$1M for housing and contracted that piece to Empower Yolo who has done a wonderful job finding housing for this difficult to house population.
- Round 2 – Over \$100M is available statewide. Round 1 recipients are eligible to apply. The RFP was released in mid-January and it is due March 18th. Awards will be made by June for a 38-month period. The Round 2 application will focus on homelessness. There is a robust community input process involved and a steering committee is also needed. HPAC members are encouraged to participate.

5. YOLO COUNTY PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Ian Evans, Yolo County HHS shared that part of the NPLH application included a County Plan to Address Homelessness that had very specific requirements so this was used as an opportunity to create a Yolo County Plan to Address Homelessness (the Plan) that would both meet the requirements of NPLH and also could be used over the next three-year period. The Plan identifies specific strategies and goals to address homelessness and will be evaluated annually. The Plan was completed with the technical assistance of HomeBase, was finalized in January and submitted as part of the NPLH application. The Plan will be posted on the Homeless Services website in the near future. It was also shared via email to HPAC, Board of Supervisors, Local Mental Health Board, Health Council, and participants in the community input sessions. Thank you to all who participated.

Question: Is there is a plan to develop similar plans in each of the cities? Not specifically. The next step is to meet with the homeless partners to determine key roles and responsibilities. These were intentionally left blank in the Plan since collaboration with our partners is needed to determine who will best fill each role. Feedback received during review of the plan included the importance of an annual check-in to review the work happening in each of the goal areas and to treat the Plan as a living document.

6. HMIS RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Ian Evans, Yolo County HHS reported that at the last HPAC Data Subcommittee meeting on 1/16/19, Lindsay Moss from Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) discussed the Release of Information (ROI) period of validity. Because of the shared HMIS platform between Sacramento and Yolo, there are some settings, including the ROI period, that must be set the same for both counties. The ROI period had previously been set at 5 years. After reviewing other CoCs and learning that the most commonly used ROI period is 7 years, used by 15 other CoCs, Sacramento changed their ROI period to 7 years. Yolo can choose to change to 7 years also, or implement a manual workaround for each client to change the ROI date. The



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Data Subcommittee unanimously recommended approving the change in ROI period from 5 to 7 years. Ryan Collins, HPAC Chair, requested that a formal vote be put on the next agenda.

Recent system functionality changes include a requirement to have the ROI entered in HMIS before the client can be entered. For clients who are already in HMIS but missing an ROI, there is a new banner alert. It is believed that most of the clients have a signed ROI but that the paper may be in a case file and not uploaded into HMIS, or the ROI was uploaded into the 'Files' section in HMIS but not clicked the 'Yes' 'Consent' button. The functionality makes it easy to move the document to the correct location in HMIS.

7. 2019 POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) COUNT UPDATE

The 2019 PIT Count Community Leads provided an update about the Unsheltered Count. HNSA staff will work directly with providers to obtain the Sheltered Count and will also be doing quality control review to eliminate any duplicates etc.

- West Sacramento – Mark Sawyer, City of West Sacramento reported participants included 13 volunteers, 2 City Council members, 4 officers and a sergeant. They were able to cover more ground this year and went to the hardest to reach areas of the city. Preliminary count for unsheltered is 80, down from 87 in 2015 and 2017. Additionally, he is aware of 10 sheltered through the Rotating Warming Center.
- Woodland – Kristen Cline, City of Woodland reported that they were able to cover more ground this year. They set up three stations at Big Lots, Freeman Park and Wal-Mart (East) which were staffed by 4th and Hope and provided good opportunities for public engagement and education. They had 21 total participants including 4 pairs of plain clothes officers who covered the established beats, and Yolo County Housing, Veteran's Services and 4 Sheriff officers who covered the unincorporated areas adjacent to the city limits. Other volunteers covered some hard to reach areas where there were known camps. Preliminary count for unsheltered is 202 which is significantly higher than 2017 unsheltered of 51. The increase is attributed to having plentiful volunteers, collaboration with other agencies, the outreach services, and knowing where people were located.
- Davis – Bill Pride, Davis Community Meals and Housing reported that they had a hotdog roast at their resource center to attract people. Teams of people also went out into the field to known locations and also covered the bordering unincorporated areas. The homeless population in Davis has become more scattered. Preliminary count for unsheltered is 108.
- Winters/Rural – Alysa Meyer, Legal Services of Northern CA reported that 14 volunteers in 6 teams divided into Winters, Dunnigan, Zamora/Yolo, Knights Landing, Esparto/Capay/Guinda and Clarksburg. Winters Police Chief assisted in identifying locations. The effort this year was more comprehensive in years past. Unfortunately, it was very foggy, and had rained recently, causing the river to rise and forcing the homeless camps to relocate to higher ground, or to the other side of the river which is located in Sutter County. Preliminary count for unsheltered is 4 which they believe is lower than reality. Suggestion for next year is to align with the food distribution that occurs on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.

Ryan Collins, HPAC Chair, thanked everyone for their efforts related to the 2019 PIT Count. Yolo County is the fastest growing county in the state right now and there is insufficient housing inventory to keep up with the population growth leading to an increase in the number of people either experiencing



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homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the climate in CA is more livable for homeless individuals than it is in colder parts of the country.

8. ROTATING WARMING CENTER/WINTER SHELTER (RWS) UPDATES

Representatives from each of the rotating warming centers/warming shelter provided the following updates:

- West Sacramento – Mark Sawyer, City of West Sacramento and Don Bosley, Mercy Coalition reported that West Sacramento is operating the Winter Warming Center for the first year and has been open for 8 weeks now. It is hosted by 5 congregations with the location changing nightly. Guests sleep in the sanctuary rooms. Pets are not allowed and there is no accommodation for storing vehicles, or personal belongings beyond what you can carry. Guests are picked up at a certain time and returned the next day. They are only open 5 nights per week, but multiple guests report that they can find couch surfing opportunities during the other two nights. Over 200 volunteers have been trained. Referrals and intake occur through Mark's Thursday walk-in office hours or through requests from providers. The warming center has been a very helpful resource for the walk-in clients who need immediate shelter. Maximum capacity is 20, average capacity is 10 with a high of 15. 33 different individuals have been served. Some have found housing and/or become employed. There has been great support from the City of West Sacramento, County and non-profits including Shores of Hope, Yolo County Children's Alliance, Downtown Streets Team and IRWS - Davis. They are pleased with how their first year is going and believe they will be able to grow from here.
- Woodland – Dan Sokolow, City of Woodland, provided an update during Agenda Item #3
- Davis – Linda Scott, IRWS – Davis reported that in their 12th year, the rotating shelter has more services than it has in the past. They now have intake rooms at St. Martin's church instead of an outdoor tent in previous years. Ryan Collins and Nadia Waggener attend regularly to talk with guests about social services available. A nurse practitioner and medical assistant attend twice weekly to see patients. They have partnered with the Hickey Gym to reinstate the showers program on Sunday nights prior to intake, and transportation is provided. Also partnering with HOPE student organization who is developing a survey to determine what types of donated items the guests could best use. Results are not available yet. IRWS has joined HMIS. CESH and HEAP funds were awarded which will pay for overnight supervisors and HMIS fees. There is good coordination between the hospital and the shelter. 88 individuals have been served, down from 130 to 140 in previous years. Average nightly occupancy is in the 20s with a high of 33. Barriers include the lack of storage for personal belongings and not being able to accommodate pets. A high school robotics team is developing an app that would show number of vacancies in local shelters.

9. EXTENDED SHELTER UPDATE

- Ian Evans, Yolo County HHS reported that the extended shelter was originally scheduled to be open for 45 days as a temporary project, with plans to partner with the City of Woodland for a more permanent solution. Recently, the decision was made to extend the shelter operations to June. The County, City of Woodland and Hope will coordinate to determine the next phase of the project. Currently there are 30 people who have been sheltered and two have been permanently housed. One idea being considered is to complete the self-sufficiency matrix at



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entry, track throughout project and complete it again at exit. The project came together quickly and it has been an amazing effort between all involved.

10. CAMP FIRE DISCUSSION

- This agenda item was incorporated into Agenda Item #3

11. MEETING EVALUATION AND FUTURE TOPICS

Ryan Collins received feedback on the meeting evaluation and future agenda items

Meeting Evaluation:

Plus – proximity to food, all the updates, record turnout, awesome PIT Count, good parking, broad system activity and engagement

Delta – no coffee, difficult to hear, need to allow more time for program updates

15. NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 am by unanimous approval:

- **Motion:** Alysa Meyer, Legal Services of Northern CA
- **Second:** Jeneba Lahai, Yolo County Children's Alliance
- **Ayes:** Unanimous
- **Nays:** None
- **Abstentions:** None