



**Plumas-Sierra Counties
CoC Advisory Board Regular Meeting
April 26, 2022
10:00AM**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum/Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

Voting members present: Tracey Ferguson, Aimee Heaney, Laurie Marsh, and Cathy Rahmeyer. The Chair reminded the Advisory Board that there is still an at-large position vacant.

Participating members present: Denise Pyper, Supervisor Greg Hagwood, Kate Manganaro of Plumas County Public Health Agency (PCPHA), and Anne Nielson of Plumas County Behavioral Health (PCBH).

2. Public Comments (limited to 3 mins. per comment)

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2022

Board members reviewed for approval the regular meeting minutes from March 22, 2022.

There were no changes submitted. Cathy Rahmeyer moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Laurie Marsh seconded. The motion was approved.

4. Discussion

A. NorCal CoC Executive Board Meeting Updates – Lea Salas and Tracey Ferguson

i. New Executive Board Chair and Vice-Chair

At the last meeting, the new Executive Board (EB) chair and vice chair were announced. Barbara Longo from Lassen has been the chair for the past two years, and Tracey Ferguson was vice chair.

The new chair is Roy Jackson of Del Norte County; vice chair is Sarah Collard from Siskiyou County.

ii. NorCal CoC Governance Charter Edits

The chair has tabled these edits, so no action was taken. These edits will be reviewed again at the June meeting when the draft may be ready. Our Advisory Board has previously provided substantive comments to the Executive Board for inclusion in the final draft.

iii. PIT Count Report

The 2022 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count Data is due to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by April 30, 2022. Lead Agency (LA) said they were going to submit by April 22nd. The report will be released soon. Cathy Rahmeyer has seen the initial draft, and it has not yet been broken down by county, so the data doesn't provide the local picture. This year, LA is not allowing for counties to correct data errors before submitting the to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Tracey Ferguson will call Keith Anderson at LA to find out more about this. There is no timeframe for an upcoming report. Cathy Rahmeyer will send a copy of the aggregate draft to share if requested. Plumas County 2022 count was 241 individuals, up from 117 in 2021, and up from 46 in 2019. Cathy Rahmeyer adds that the homeless rate is significantly increased and the demand for assistance and resources is huge. Sierra County's 2022 PIT count was 12. Sierra County has no shelters. The consensus was that this year's count was less of a collaborative process from last year.

iv. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) 2022

PCIRC is expecting that HUD will release these funds in May 2022, then the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will follow. EB has not provided much information to date.

v. Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID-19 (ESG-CV)

The audit is underway for 2021 ESG funds usage. Maybe by July of 2022 these monies would have to be spent down. \$2 million rewarded with 9 subrecipients. Historically, PCIRC has never had to provide backup with expense reports. Now, CA State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is requiring more data as back-up, which is not a problem. Their staff possibly didn't know that these weren't allowable expenses, and HCD may have said, "No you can't use these funds for those expenses." The result is that PCIRC is now responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars spent out of pocket while this is on hold by the State. And HCD funds this program through HUD federal funding.

vi. Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Round 3

1. Funding Activities with Initial Disbursement

The HHAP funding total for Plumas County was \$64,257.96 and \$16,000+ for Sierra County. For the \$2 million for funding activities – the first disbursement for HHAP funding – we received 25% of total because they are collaborating with another county. \$10,000 per year for the PIT Count application; City of Redding paid for the CoC fees for mobile/web-based application. They are spending \$40,000 for 4 years of the app's use across the CoC's seven counties. The percentage cost per county. Using 2019 instead of 2020 numbers, PCIRC is shorted about \$46,000 using older numbers. Bottom line: EB did take action on this item – EB approved this to be taken out of HHAP 3 initial disbursements. Cathy Rahmeyer stated that the \$658 annual cost is well worth the expenditure. The only difference is that PCIRC uses paper surveys to record PIT data, and then enters these into the app after collection.

- Lead Agency is requesting approval of a 1.0 FTE allocation to support the annual PIT Count administrative and application support, as well as for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and contract

compliance staffing for duration of the HHAP grant. LA needs to build capacity to support the CoC administrative workload.

- Additionally, they are seeking support for 0.5 FTE employee at consulting firm to support applying for these grants. EB requested more information concerning these positions from LA, asking \$450,000 over 4 years out of the total \$2million, which is a significant portion. This is to specifically implement the homeless plan. Why can't we have one full-time lead agency person doing the homeless plan and the PIT Count administration? Cathy Rahmeyer adds that the CoC gets direct funds from HUD to cover LA administrative and operating costs. Where are their matching dollars to help cover these costs? Why should such a large allocation come directly from the counties' portions if HUD is supporting these costs? The chair will circle back around to this so that the AB has opportunity to discuss this further and communicate to the EB.

- HMIS Compliance Project

NorCal has HMIS compliance issues concerning some grant funding. Decipher HMIS is the firm that helps counties with compliance for funding, etc. CoC EB voted to approve this contract – Shasta County voted no to initial consultant firms to help with HMIS compliance. Plumas and Sierra Counties both voted yes.

2. Homeless Action Plan Status

Housing Tools, Inc. is consultant who is completing the Homeless Action Plan; they are in data collection mode now. The plan needs to be completed by June 30, 2022. This is a HHAP Program Round 3 threshold requirement. At Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 10:00am to noon, they will be presenting the homeless action plan. Tracey Ferguson will send out the announcement after the conclusion of the AB meeting. Cathy Rahmeyer asserted that PCIRC needs to be included in this meeting and it was not coordinated with them, and Sherry Morgado of Housing Tools has asked for all PCIRC's current funding – they need to get current projects from the homeless services agencies. What are the needs of both counties, and what are the current projects and gaps that need to be filled? Cathy Rahmeyer stated that Sherry Morgado had only requested current funding of PCIRC and no other information. Anne Nielson and Cathy Rahmeyer both input HMIS data for Plumas County – this data is what will inform the process.

B. NPLH Project Update

The County and consultants continue to look for a No Place Like Home (NPLH) Program viable site. This has been a thorn in the County's side to find a multi-parcel site that meets the multiple threshold requirements of NPLH. They continue to work with the Development Sponsor, RCHCD, on site identification. Tracey Ferguson, Tony Hobson, and RCHCD met to discuss these. A local realtor is working to help the County. They continue to focus on 2R, 3R, 7R parcels of single-family residences that could work for multi-family zones land. The General Plan and rezoning process could work. RCHCD information – we missed the NPLH non-competitive allocation; the deadline has passed. We didn't have site control or even a place identified. So, the County doesn't have NPLH funding tied to this project any longer...MOU is in place to continue to work with RCHCD.

Tony Hobson is working with Plumas County to execute an MOU with Sierra County as a joint partnership; the MOU will articulate what the relationship will look like and the counties' roles and responsibilities.

5. New Business/Action Items

- A. Continuing State of Emergency Teleconferencing (standing item) – discussion and possible action

Norcal CoC's EB voted yes to continue teleconferencing for these meetings. EB members don't have to travel to attend these meetings. Brown Act rules allow for leniency amid COVID state of emergency considerations. Aimee Heaney asked if the Advisory Board will move to a hybrid meeting structure. If Brown Act is rescinded, then any member who is not on site, would have to include their remote address in the notice. For May, it is proposed that we consider moving to a hybrid format.

Cathy Rahmeyer made a motion to move to hybrid meeting format, and Aimee Heaney seconded. Motion approved with Laurie Marsh absent.

- B. Plumas-Sierra CoC Advisory Board Secretary Alternate – discussion and possible action – item tabled to the May 2022 meeting.
- C. Sierra County PIT Committee Alternate – discussion and possible action – item tabled to the May 2022 meeting.

- D. Plumas-Sierra Counties CoC Advisory Board Roster

Discussion: There are half a dozen EB subcommittees – which subcommittees are the priority if the CoC doesn't have capacity to complete all subcommittee work? The ones which are absolutely required by HUD should be articulated in the governance charter's section on committee membership.

- E. Addressing Homelessness (standing item)

PCIRC – nothing specific to report; the agency is inundated with new request from individuals experiencing homelessness. All the motels are filled with workers who come in to work for the railroad and PG&E. Housing stock is very limited. Those they are trying to shelter and house are the hard to serve and chronically homeless. Limited motel vouchers still are being used. Motels will not do standing block of rooms available for PCIRC. PCBH does not have blocks of rooms reserved for clients in emergency lodging but they do have agreements with some local motels. Currently it is okay, but a few months back, there were waitlists. PCIRC has four sites; five more sites in transition, and the Ohana house. Transitional Housing (TH) has about 18-23 beds available through the use of trailers, tiny houses, and Ohana house beds. Emergency lodging is only through motel sheltering.

For the PCIRC headquarters, they will have a soft opening in June/July. It will be two years come July since the fire that destroyed the building. PCIRC has purchased the downtown trailer park property; the intake center will be located there. One umbrella for services provided for Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) and Behavioral Health (BH) at that site as well. The navigation center planning is happening now.

PCBH is signing two new rental agreements for transitional housing units. How many dedicated units for Transitional Housing units currently being used? Anne Nielson responds that there are 14 with these two more units to be filled.

PCIRC has purchased the old Pangaea Café to be a workforce development site for their retraining programs.

Supervisor Hagwood added that the County is experiencing a new level of homelessness, and it often involves some degree of mental illness, including co-occurring BH issues, and at the same time working to finding some solutions. It doesn't seem to be getting easier and with the Dixie Fire it is making circumstances more difficult to address.

Tracey Ferguson discussed the need for greater collaboration with the Housing Authority concerning Housing Choice vouchers. Cathy Rahmeyer stated that it needs to be a very collaborative relationship. Partners need to strive on creating a better working relationship. The Housing Authority has unique funding opportunities that they can bring to the greater community of agencies before turning down these funding ideas because of their lack of administrative capacity. Additional vouchers were made available and these were turned down by the Housing Authority. That decision negatively impacted 3-4 counties' ability to address providing more vouchers.

The AB asked if that decision had been brought to the CDC Board (which in Plumas County is the BOS acting in this dual role) to decline these vouchers or was it made unilaterally by the Executive Director, Roger Diefendorf. He claimed a lack of capacity to manage those vouchers in 2019/2020. Supervisor Hagwood stated that this happened early on in his role as supervisor, and he thinks in hindsight this was a mistake.

F. New Member Applications (standing item) None were submitted.

6. Committee Appointments (standing item)

A. HMIS/CEP Committee Member Sierra County – tabled until May 2022

B. PIT Committee Alternate Sierra County – tabled until May 2022

7. Requests for Letters of Support (standing item) – none were submitted.

8. Committee/Workgroup Updates

A. PIT Committee – Cathy Rahmeyer stated that there will be a meeting next month, then a break, and hopefully there will be a draft of individual counties' data to share soon.

B. HMIS/CEP Committee – Not every county has implemented Coordinated Entry (CE); technical assistance around CE and HMIS has not been enough for many counties to implement these systems. LA requires more training for their staff to be oriented with HMIS/CE compliance, etc.

9. Agency Updates –

PCIRC is looking to hire people, specifically a Plumas CASA program manager – they need more staff/please send referrals to Cathy Rahmeyer.

Tony Hobson has resigned as PCBH Director, as of May 20, 2022. Sharon Sousa, a PCBH clinical supervisor will act as interim director.

Plumas County - Tracey Ferguson mentioned the CDC Housing Authority; potential desire to seek out a CalHome loan through HCD. CDC Board (BOS) reviewed this. Eligible entity must meet the requirement of having experience with housing grants. A deferred loan up to 30 years with 0% interest. Gap financing up to \$150,000 for damaged or destroyed houses from the Dixie fire and rehab and remodel with \$100k limit. The Board gave this a thumbs-up to fund a position to support this at the Housing Authority. This would be a revolving fund you can continue to offer grants based on one-time funding. Mona Akbar at HCD is our local representative. Tehama

County could be a mentor county for this program, as they are already implementing. Let's look at the application for the NOFA. Start looking at this program. Dixie Fire Collaborative is the long-term group with grant writing capacity. Hope City, a cohort of people, like an Amish barn raising, could provide the labor, leaving just material costs to be covered by this grant. CalHome could be the funding source to cover the material costs.

10. Discussion Items for Next Meeting:

- EB updates
- NPLH update
- Board Roster
- Committee member actions for Sierra County and the Board secretary alternate
- PIT Count update
- HHAP 3 funding update

11. Adjournment

12. Cathy Rahmeyer motioned to adjourn; Tracey Ferguson seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:41am.

Next Meeting: May 24, 2022 (10:00AM)

If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec.12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.