



**Plumas-Sierra Counties  
CoC Advisory Board Regular Meeting  
August 23, 2022  
10:00AM**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum/Introductions**

The chair called the meeting to order at: 10:01am.

Voting members in attendance were Tracey Ferguson, Aimee Heaney, Cathy Rahmeyer, and Laurie Marsh for Lea Salas.

Participating members in attendance were Wendi James.

Guests included Sharon Sousa and Kristy Pierson from PCBH, Kris Kuntz, Tiana Morgan-Arbulu, and Garrick Wong – Anthem/Blue Cross, Kai Milam of Environmental Alternatives Family Services, Supervisor Greg Hagwood; and James Wilson of CA Health and Wellness

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

There was no public comment.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 26, 2022**

Board members reviewed for approval the regular meeting minutes from July 26, 2022.

No discussion or changes. Aimee Heaney made a motion to approve as submitted. Cathy Rahmeyer seconded. All members voted to approve.

**4. Presentation**

- A. Housing and Homeless Incentive Program (HHIP) Investment Plan for Plumas and Sierra Counties (Kris Kuntz, Housing Manager, Anthem Blue Cross): Medi-Cal managed care plans update: deliverable to state – investment plan; HHIP is a voluntary incentive program through DHCS; to get health plans to the table addressing homelessness. Measures that health plans need to meet that will provide incentives to these plans. The State of CA wants health plans to work closely with CoCs to address homelessness.

Investment Plan deliverable: due 9/30/22; measures include engagement with CoC; coordination and integration with local Coordinated Entry system; members are successfully and stably housed; Investment Plan will show what funds will be needed to meet these program metrics (measures – see table) and additional table of proposed strategies to be included in the investment plan.

They will need a letter of support from the CoC Advisory Board – Kris Kuntz has a letter drafted for the CoC. Need letter of support by the end of September (add to the agenda);

Tracey Ferguson requested the local homeless plan; the Executive Board has delegated the letter to the advisory board on 9/27/22.

Set up special meeting for earlier in September to approve these plans and letter of support approval. Cathy Rahmeyer added that the plan is based on the HHAP 3 application. Describe how funds were identified; Cathy Rahmeyer stated that it was developed based on prior plans per PIT count allocation – Kris Kuntz stated: there's a maximum that each health plan can earn per county. Investments are contingent on meeting the metrics. It's a very different model than HHAP. Kai asks about number of beds: Stage 1 10 beds, stage II 20 beds, plus cabin size; these dollars are not restricted to Medi-Cal beneficiaries through CA health and wellness or Anthem. It can be used for all homeless populations. Cathy Rahmeyer stated that Plumas County has never had a homeless shelter, so this program is an answer for county homeless services, as we've only been able to use motel sheltering, which is very expensive and availability is unstable.

PCIRC has partnered with Sierra County for 30 years. Cathy comments that it will go to PCIRC, PCBH, and other departments and Sierra County to ensure that this is a successful model. Is PCIRC the only agency that is receiving this funding? Requirements to participate in the program surround activities in CoC, HMIS, etc. Tracey Ferguson asked if there are possibilities for other agencies to participate for this funding.

Kai Milam added that EA is interested in continuing to meet the need to address homelessness and understood the qualifications and requirements of the program; EA has been expanding their staffing capacity to be able to meet the need of addressing homelessness. Tiana Morgan-Arbulu – DHCS has not yet approved these local homelessness plans – they are in draft form until DHCS approves them.

## 5. Discussion

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

#### i. ESG 2022 Non-Competitive Allocations

The Executive Board (EB) created a Rating and Ranking Committee for this allocation; PCIRC and Shasta County were the only applicants: Shasta came out a little ahead for this money. \$148,092 goes to Shasta County. Shasta requested the full amount and PCIRC had requested \$50,000 for Rapid Rehousing (RRH). Shasta was not present at the meeting and Tracey Ferguson and Lea Salas recused themselves. \$40,000 will go to PCIRC for RRH. Balance will go to Shasta at \$108,092 because they scored the highest. The EB felt that both agencies were worthy of allocations.

#### ii. HHAP Round 3

NorCal leading on behalf of the counties; there's back and forth between NorCal CoC and the state. They will get comments back to the State by August 26, 2022.

#### iii. ESG-CV Update

NorCal CoC was audited as an ESG-CV recipient, and some activities were deemed ineligible. Spending schedule was extended to NorCal. Tracey Ferguson requested whether this extension would be extended to recipients. They said they would review on a case-by-case basis. If activities that were submitted are deemed ineligible, NorCal may request that the funds for those

be refunded, even though they were the ones who approved the activities. Understanding the audit and findings may cause need to refund due to COVID funding having a more narrowed scope of activities.

iv. CE Weekly Meetings

At last EB meeting, Paul Tunison, Coordinated Entry (CE) Coordinator for NorCal, presented on CE for counties participating. Shasta has been successful with CE and getting participants vouchers; Plumas has had six participants and Sierra has had 0 participants who have received vouchers. Effectiveness of these weekly meetings. We don't have as many vouchers as other counties. Cathy Rahmeyer added it's a difficult process – those that are most in need are the ones that are most difficult to place, unemployed, less stable, in need of more resources. It only applies to those with documented disabilities. There is no infrastructure available to transfer clients to other counties if they wanted to do so. HMIS is supposed to help with this transfer if clients want to. The meetings would be more helpful if need could be addressed across the NorCal CoC counties. If NorCal started CE in Shasta ahead of other counties, other counties were not made aware. NorCal has to allow counties to start CE.

v. Updated and Approved ESG Manual

vi. Updated and Approved HMIS End User Agreement

New forms to show data collection and usage, aligning with state and federal requirements. Approved at the July meeting.

vii. Approved CoC Standard Form to Document Homelessness

PCIRC has not started using this yet. Form has come out but there's not been any training or TA for end user agencies. Tracey Ferguson shares this EB information to the Advisory Board, but she is not a user, so there needs to be additional agency interface and training from NorCal. Tracey Ferguson will circle back to ask about training on form use and any TA available.

viii. HMIS Policies & Procedures Amendment to Documenting Homelessness

These forms being directly connected to documenting homelessness; now within the Policies and Procedures for Documenting Homelessness; Cathy Rahmeyer added that the anticipation was that these forms would be being used retroactively back to July and August, which isn't a fair expectation to have for these agencies. There needs to be better top-down communication, training, and implementation of use of these forms and their P&Ps. Tracey Ferguson will communicate this back to EB.

ix. Established Rating & Ranking Committee for NorCal CoC HUD Collaborative Application

Money to run the CoC – a rating and ranking committee was established this last EB meeting. Siskiyou, Modoc, and Plumas counties for R&R process. Meeting is September 8, 2022 at 1:00PM. What is the collaborative application about; Tracey Ferguson is participating to better understand this.

x. Discussion on Committee attendance and the process of removing members for non-compliance

Most agencies and staff wear many hats and are stretched thin, and subcommittee membership is challenging. Members have every intention of participating but must prioritize dealing with a crisis. Laurie Marsh explained the challenges of lack of capacity; who pushes the information up and down the ladder and laterally? Use one subcommittee that addresses multiple standing items that used to be the work of more than one subcommittee; shared committee work across multiple counties, such as Plumas-Sierra or Lassen-Modoc.

- xi. Full CoC Meeting of the Executive Board and Advisory Boards – September 15, 2022 at 1pm

Requirement by HUD – at regular meeting, hold a joint meeting of EB and Advisory Board No agenda has been released yet. Discuss communication, coordination, EB, and AB roles, etc. Mark your calendars to attend this meeting.

## 6. New Business/Action Items

- A. Continuing State of Emergency Teleconferencing (standing item) – discussion and possible action – EB has continued to vote to teleconference all meetings. Sharon Sousa motions, and Aimee seconded; unanimously approved.

- B. Plumas-Sierra CoC Advisory Board Chair Alternate – discussion and possible action

Tracey Ferguson still needs an alternate for both this and the EB positions. Sharon Sousa expressed that there will be new director of PCBH who may or may not participate as her alternate. Increased partnership with Housing Authority has been requested to best coordinate and participate with CE and this board. Tracey Ferguson has moved to appointment Roger Diefendorf for both the AB chair and Aimee seconds for both B and C under 6. Unanimously approved.

- C. Plumas County Executive Board Member Alternate – discussion and possible action: see above

- D. Addressing Homelessness (standing item)

PCBH: updates on client housing; Sharon Sousa stated that PRS and EA are still providing FSP higher need services - about 10 clients housed currently.

PCIRC: ending fiscal year, and lacking motel sheltering at this time. Navigation Center breaking ground and close to being able to move into the new building – paving the parking lot and then getting occupancy certificate. No move in date yet.

Sierra County: They have an increase in homeless individuals. They don't have a housing coordinator, and Laurie Marsh and Lea Salas have filled these responsibilities. Cathy Rahmeyer added that Sierra County doesn't have any RRH dollars nor the inventory. PLHA NOFA was released.

Environmental Alternatives: Kai Milam asked what type of coordinator is needed to identify the housing. EA has staff who can be cross trained to help with these responsibilities. Laurie Marsh stated that these funds are contracted with PCIRC to provide services. EA has hired additional case managers to help with emergency case management (ECM). They have mostly provided Transitional Living Program (TLP) to foster youth.

PUSD: Wendi James is working with staff to identify new homeless and foster youth to connect them with services. Tracey Ferguson asked if Wendi James and Kai Milam working with EA are connected – share contact information.

Supervisor Hagwood: He was glad that PCIRC is moving back into their facility. Appreciated all the collaboration across these agencies. Tracey Ferguson added that there is an awareness of an increased coordination of Housing Authority/CDC and the Advisory Board.

- E. New Member Applications (standing item) None. Kristy Pierson may join as Aimee's alternate or as the at-large voting member, depending on what the new director decides.

#### **7. Committee Appointments (standing items)**

- A. HMIS/CEP Committee Member Sierra County

No action

- B. PIT Committee Alternate Sierra County

No action

#### **7. Requests for Letters of Support (standing item)**

None submitted.

#### **8. Committee/Workgroup Updates**

- A. PIT Committee – Cathy Rahmeyer added that PIT doesn't start until the fall, so this committee work is not started up; Laurie Marsh mentioned that each county needs to name its annual PIT lead.

- B. HMIS/CEP Committee

No update

#### **9. Agency Updates**

- A. PCIRC building move-in date: see above item 6D.

#### **10. County Updates**

- A. Disaster Case Management – If you see those who need assistance, PRS and Catholic Social Services flyer is available. Monthly FEMA Individual Assistance meetings concerning disaster case management. Sharon stated that there was a disconnect concerning these individuals and mental health services. If they meet PCBH criteria, PCBH will provide services. PCBH opened up the Chester Wellness Center for them to have group meetings. PCIRC continues to provide grief counseling to fire victims as they have been. Northern Valley Catholic Services is the umbrella provider.

- B. Crisis Counseling Program

- C. Veterans Stand Down (August 26 and 27, 2022) – Veterans Nations Finest (Michelle Alexander) will be at the Stand Down to help out.

#### **11. Discussion Items for Next Meeting**

Special Meeting scheduled for September 7, 2022, at 11:00am to be noticed.

#### **12. Adjournment**

Laurie Marsh motioned to adjourn; Aimee Heaney seconded. Chair adjourned meeting at 12:02pm.

**Next Meeting:** September 7, 2022 (11:00AM)