

Leadership Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Via Zoom

Leadership Council Co-Chair: Luis Alejo (Monterey County Board of Supervisors)

Leadership Council Co-Chair: César E. Flores (City of San Juan Bautista)

Members Present & Affiliations: Mike LeBarre (Mayor of King City), Kimbley Craig (Mayor of Salinas), Ian Oglesby (Mayor of Seaside), Ignacio Velazquez (Mayor of Hollister), Jose L. Rios (Mayor of Gonzales) Michael Lisman (Monterey County, Health Dept.), Lauren Suwansupa (Monterey County Dept. of Social Services), Donna Smith (Monterey County Office of Education), Timothy Heavin (COC), Shawn Stone (Community Human Services), Amanda Villareal (Central California Alliance for Health), Kurt Schake (VTC), Robin McCrae (Community Human Services), Jane Barr (Eden Housing), Karen Cusson (Victory Mission), Enrique Arreola (County of San Benito, Health & Human Services), Dana Cleary (CHISPA), Darlene Sturgeon (Housing Authority of the County of Monterey), Amanda Villareal (Central California Alliance for Health), Lori Medina (Monterey County Department of Social Services),

CHSP Staff: Roxanne Wilson, Jake Fenton, Molly Machado, Kai Reynolds, Grant Tuioti, Oliver Elbert, Joshua Bryan, Kiman Chheng

Guests: Javier Gomez (County of Monterey), Alexa Johnson (HRC), Jess Gutierrez (HRC), Wes White (Salinas Homeless Union), Megan Hunter (City of Salinas), Michael Castro (Community Foundation for Monterey County, Anastacia Wyatt (City of Pacific Grove), Wildfire, Bella

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:** The meeting began at 1:34 PM. Introductions were made to keep order to the call.
2. **Additions/Modifications to the Agenda:** Wilson requested a discussion of the PIT count.
3. **Public Comment:** The public is encouraged to attend Leadership Council meetings to observe council activities. Members of the public are asked to sign in so that the record reflects their presence. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.
 - Wildfire expressed the need for more parking.
 - Wes White expressed the need for more programs for people in vehicles and RVs. He also believes that the COC is harming the Pajaro River Homeless Community and needs to find better solutions for the people involved.
4. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a) August 4, 2021 Leadership Council Minutes (attached)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Mayor Velasquez. Seconded by Mayor Oglesby. No abstentions. Motion carries unanimously.

5. Formation of Safe Parking AdHoc Committee – Action

Wilson expressed that safe parking has been a consistent issue at meetings. She asked if anyone is willing to join a committee to work on this issue and help find land for the safe parking program; the most difficult issue is to try and identify land for the program. Alejo agreed to serve as co-chair of the committee. Suwansupa expressed that she or her staff will be also involved in the committee (department of social services) and leverage whatever resources they can to help. Katz agreed to serve on the committee and expressed that we need more funding for this issue. The parking needs to be in locations where there are services and there also needs to be services specifically for the safe parking program explained Katz. Mayor Lebarre agreed to serve on the committee. Timothy Heavin agreed to serve on the committee (he mentioned a specific spot of land in East Garrison that could work). Cusson agreed to serve on the committee.

Public comment on this item:

Wildfire expressed her position on safe parking but was difficult to understand because of technical difficulties.

Bella expressed that she is currently safe parking in the marina. The main thing that they need is additional porta-potties.

6. Continuum of Care Brief Updates

Wilson presented Continuum of Care updates to the Leadership Council members on the below projects:

Wilson reported that her email had been blacklisted and that it has been difficult to reach her. Her IT department is currently trying to resolve the issue.

A. Continuum of Care NOFA

Wilson reported that the Continuum of Care NOFA has dropped and Homebase has been hired to assist. The COC is expecting three to four new projects to enter the competition, and so at least three projects may find themselves at risk. The Rankin review for the projects that are applying for money is going to be in the second week in October. Wilson reported that the transitional housing projects on the line include Pueblo Del Mar, Safe Passage, VTC's GPD program, and others. The new projects are all permanent supportive housing for victims of domestic violence.

B. Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Award

Wilson reported that CHSP has received the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grant. CHSP had attempted to apply for the grant in 2017 and 2018 but was unsuccessful. The grant is for 5.2 million dollars plus an additional 300k. It is to be used for transition-aged youth and under. Wilson reported that the Youth Action Board has to sign off on every intervention that is approved. In the next 6 months, CHSP will be working on a coordinated plan with HUD. Once HUD approves the plan, CHSP will open up the local competition for very specific projects. Some of the grant money can potentially be rolled into the COC. Only Certain Types of projects can be rolled over. There is going to be a large focus on building out a youth-supported coordinated entry system. Rural areas in Monterey and San Benito County will be the focus because the grant was funded as a rural community grant. Wilson explained that the COC may be able to hit functional 0 regarding youth homelessness.

C. Project Roomkey

Wilson reported that the COC is still working on Project Roomkey 3.0, and it will be contracted to the City of Salinas. A location has not yet been identified. Services providers have been identified and they will be the same services providers that helped with PRK 2.0.

D. Project Homekey

Wilson reported that Project Homekey is still having problems with project-based vouchers. The state needs to intervene or the COC will end up with empty projects because of a lack of funding. There were originally 85 project-based vouchers allocated to Step Up. However, HUD decided that a federal environmental review was necessary; the City of Salinas believes this to be unnecessary. Wilson explained that construction has completely stopped at Project Homekey. Additionally, the clients from project Roomkey are still waiting to get into Homekey. Those clients are currently living at the Share Center. Alejo explained that the COC is unable to utilize half of the rooms at Homekey currently, and he has reached out to Leon Panetta on this issue. Mayor Leberre expressed that the city of Salinas is frustrated with all the issues surrounding Homekey. Hunter explained that the COC needs to obtain a waiver for the environmental issues around Project Homekey. Hunter also believes that the field office won't support the project-based vouchers and that we might need to find another way to fund the units.

E. HHAP r3

Wilson reported that HHAP round three is starting and is for \$4.2 million (around \$4 million for Monterey County and around 300k for San Benito County). Additionally, the State of California will give out a small percentage of the funding to get started if needed. Alejo suggested that the COC should wait before RFPing the funding but also suggested discussing the issue further. Wilson explained that the COC has just launched its 5-year plan and she wants to make sure that all funding aligns with that plan. Additionally, Wilson reported that the COC has a huge shortage of housing and specifically extremely low-income housing in Monterey County. San Benito County is aligned with the standard at 24 units per 100 units while Monterey County is below at only 16 units.

F. Homeless Summit

Wilson reported that Dan Baldwin has agreed to support the Homeless Summit. MBAP and CMNC have also agreed to help. The summit needs to be conducted in spring. The summit will be focused on educating elected officials to learn about the COC's local homeless issues and to build broader partnerships. Arreola confirmed that the County of San Benito would be represented in the Summit.

G. PIT Count

Wilson reported that CHSP is about a month behind in planning the PIT count. The PIT happens every odd year. The COC is mandated to complete the PIT count in January. CHSP is trying to get approval from HUD to complete the PIT over two days instead of the usual one. Wilson explained that COC funding is based on PIT numbers. People need to brace for a potential doubling in the PIT count. Alejo expressed that the COC needs to campaign to find volunteers. Wilson stated that the PIT would be done completely digitally. 250 to 400 volunteers are needed to complete the PIT Count. Schake expressed that the VTC would be happy to help with finding military volunteers and would also serve as the gathering site whenever it is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM

Minutes taken and prepared by Jake Fenton