

# **Leadership Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022 | 3:30 PM - 5:00 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:** Luis Alejo (Monterey County Board of Supervisors), César E. Flores (City of San Juan Bautista), Mike LeBarre (Mayor of King City), Kimbley Craig (Mayor of Salinas), Lauren Suwansupa (Monterey County Dept. of Social Services), Glorietta Rowland (Monterey County Dept. of Social Services), Donna Smith (Monterey County Office of Education), Timothy Heavin (COC), Amanda Villareal (Central California Alliance for Health), Robin McCrae (Community Human Services), Jane Barr (Eden Housing), Enrique Arreola (County of San Benito, Health & Human Services), Dana Cleary (CHISPA), Lori Medina (Monterey County Department of Social Services), Phyllis Katz (California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.), Dan Baldwin (Community Foundation for Monterey County), Rafael Hernandez (MBEP), Karen Cusson (Victory Mission), Tory Gunsolley (Housing Authority of Monterey County), Kurt Schake (VTC), Michael Lisman (Monterey County Health Department), Javier Gomez (County of Monterey), Michael Castro (Community Foundation of Monterey County), Colleen Coutney (County of Monterey, District 5)

**CHSP Staff:** Roxanne Wilson, Jake Fenton, Kai Reynolds, Grant Tuioti, Oliver Elbert, Joshua Bryan, Kiman Chheng, Katrina McKenzie

**Guests:** Alexa Johnson (HRC), Jess Gutierrez (HRC), Wes White (Salinas Homeless Union), Erica Parker (Office of Assembly Member Mark Stone), Rod Powell (City of Salinas), Eric Johnsen (Community Homeless Solutions), Jill Allen (Dorothy's Place), Michele Dunn (YWCA), Lena Bustamante (YWCA), Barbara Mitchell (Interim Inc.), Sophie Yakir (Interim Inc.) Patricia Zerounian, Brian Bajari (Sparrow Collaborative), Georgina Alvarez (CCCIL), Art Valdez (Central Coast District), Anastacia Wyatt (City of Pacific Grove),

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:** The meeting began at 3:30 PM. Introductions were made to keep order to the call.
2. **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 two (2) minutes per speaker.
  - a. No Comments
3. **Introduction to Interim HACM Executive Director (Tory Gunsolley):** Gunsolley reported he has been in the public housing sector for over 25 years and is a passionate advocate for reducing homelessness. Gunsolley explained that he helped reduce homelessness by 50% and ended veteran homelessness to effective 0 in Houston, Texas, and was close to ending street homelessness to effective 0 before Hurricane Harvey. "I'm happy to be here," shared Gunsolley. Before my joining,

the board voted to reunify the development arm under HACM. Right now, we are going through a staffing crisis with Covid. 15% or more of our staff are vacant or out. That is our immediate challenge, explained Gunsolley.

**Motion to accept Tory Gunsolley as a new member of the Leadership Council made by Mayor Craig. Seconded by Caesar Flores. No abstentions. No Opposition. Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Consent Agenda:**

- a) December 15, 2021 Leadership Council minutes
- b) January 31, 2022 LC Email Vote Minutes

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Mayor Craig. Seconded by Caesar Flores. No abstentions. No Opposition. Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Reallocation of \$169,772 of CoC funds from Shelter Cove to Shelter + Care:**

Sophie Yakir reported that Interim Inc. currently has a transitional housing grant but would like to transition it to a PSH grant to align better with HUD. We are asking to use the funds to increase the units in our Shelter + Care program from 14 to 21 units, and we are thinking of turning our shelter cove into sober living units, reported Yakir.

Luis Alejo asked if Interim Inc. Would be able to expend the funds by the end of June. Barbara Mitchell Responded that by the time HUD deals with this, it will be at the end of this grant cycle, but next year's cycle is automatically reauthorized. It's possible Hud will deal with it sooner, but they may change it mid-year. Otherwise, they would change it for the June cycle. Additionally, we have found that it is difficult to house currently homeless individuals who have serious mental illness, and this is mostly who is being referred to us (many also have substance abuse problems). All the units at Shelter Cove have shared units which can be difficult for people trying to stay sober. Shelter + Care is all individual units. Yakir added that we have already spent some of the funds for Shelter Cove; we bill HUD each quarter for our expenses.

**Motion to reallocate \$169,772 of CoC funds from Shelter Cove to Shelter + Care made by Dan Baldwin. Seconded by Mayor Craig. No abstentions. No Opposition. Motion carried unanimously.**

**6. Housing Pipeline updates – Homekey (Salinas, King City, Pacific Grove), NPLH (Sun Rose Gardens & Lightfighter Village)**

**a. Homekey**

- i. Salinas - Mayor Craig reported that the City of Salinas is spending \$29 million to acquire the Salinas Inn and Sanborn Inn. Rod Powell reported that the state has only awarded 23 Homekey projects at this time and 3 are from the Central Coast Region. Currently, that state has awarded just under 500 million from the total pot of funds. If anyone has any questions or needs support, please reach out, stated Powell. Luis Alejo commended the City of Salinas and its staff for securing the 2 new projects and bringing in 30 million into Monterey County and Salinas. Additionally, Mayor Craig congratulated King City and Pacific Grove for their respective Homekey projects. Donna Smith asked how many of the units will be available for families. Powell

responded that these are studio units and not ideal for family use but more for individuals and couples.

- ii. King City - Mayor LeBarre reported that the King City Homekey application is currently in the review process. We are hoping that the process will be finished in one or two weeks, explained Mayor LeBarre. It would be a shame if King City was overlooked because there are only a few small communities applying for Homekey, and we need to set an example. Additionally, Alejo commended King City for putting forward what will be the first Homekey project in south county.
- iii. Pacific Grove - Roxanne Wilson reported that Pacific Grove also applied for Project Homekey. She explained that they still have questions about the site, and they will discuss the project at the next city council meeting
- iv. San Benito County – Arreola reported that San Benito County has also submitted a Homekey proposal that will benefit families. It is the second phase of the HEAP project and would add 11 more units.

**b. NPLH**

- i. Sun Rose Gardens – Roxanne Wilson reported that Sun Rose Gardens broke ground in September and will include 17 beds for adults with severe mental illness.
- ii. Lightfighter Village – Roxanne Wilson reported that Lightfighter Village will break ground in quarter four of 2022. It will include around 71 units for veterans with severe mental illness or other functional impairments. Additionally, VTC is also looking at creating another project in Seaside with 60 mix-use units
- iii. Greenfield Commons – Roxanne Wilson reported Greenfield Commons will contain 101 single, two-room, and three-room beds. There will be 11 units with 25-30% AMI. Michael Lisman added that phase 2 will also include another 101 units.
- iv. Dana Cleary reported that CHISPA closed on its financing for the East Garrison apartments. Those aren't for the homeless specifically, but they are 66 additional apartments for families, explained Cleary.
- v. Luis Alejo suggested bringing Jason Cameron to the next LC meeting to discuss legislation on Veteran's homes.

**7. Statues update on 5-Year-Plan activities:**

- a. Roxanne Wilson updated the Council on the 5-year-plan. CHSP engaged Focus Strategies to guide the Plan development process. The County of Monterey Department of Social Services, County of Monterey Health Department, County of San Benito Health, and Human Services, City of Salinas also helped develop the plan. The planning process incorporated robust data analysis, engagement of key stakeholders in strategy development, and extensive community input. We predict an increase in homelessness (caused by a lower-than-expected PIT count) followed by a yearly decrease, explained Wilson. To reach the 50% reduction, we need a significant increase in exits to permanent housing. Furthermore, Monterey County and San Benito County need to ramp up housing production. The three main strategies to reach the goals of the five-year plan include: 1) Increase participation in homelessness solutions by leaders and key stakeholders across the region. 2) Improve the performance of the homelessness response system in providing pathways to housing. 3) Expand service-oriented

responses to unsheltered homelessness. Wilson discussed specific areas of each strategy. She also explained how the process of implementing each of these areas has begun.

- i. Luis Alejo wanted to make sure that we acknowledge the importance of balancing public health by allowing homeless individuals to live in public areas.
- ii. Tory Gunsolley reported that a strategy that they used for sweeps in Houston was to coordinate with their local coalition and prioritize adding them into HMIS.
  1. Wilson responded that the biggest issue is the lack of beds. She also explained that a large issue is the trash and unsightliness of encampments. She understands why housed people don't like to live around them.
    - a. Wyatt responded that it might be a good idea to discuss the trash situation with Public Works because Public Works is required to eliminate waste going into the waterways.

#### **8. Additions/Modifications to the Agenda:**

- a. Luis Alejo reported that Monterey County approved its first-ever Director of Homeless and they are recruiting for the position currently. Secondly, he asked for a presentation from BACS about the SHARE Center and how it is currently running. Lastly, he also explained that he has created a referral at the county on the Mental Health Services Act intended to transform our behavioral health network for the state. Every county has struggled with how to spend the money, explained Alejo. He is concerned with how we can more effectively use the money to help people with homelessness and mental illnesses. The supervisors will provide a report on how to use the money, but they would like the expertise of the LC to assist.
- b. Robin McCrae reported that Casa De Noche Buena just celebrated its first anniversary of providing services, and she has a presentation that she would like to share with the Leadership Council
- c. Enrique Arreola reported that the Board of Supervisors is voting to approve the Manager of Homeless Services Position. He also asked when the first draft of the homeless census will be released.
  - i. Roxanne Wilson responded that it will be completed in April but can't be released until the report is complete in June.
- d. Roxanne Wilson reported on a new funding stream called HHIP. It's due on the same day as HHAP. Both HHIP and HHAP require updates to our plan, and we also must work on year two action plans. I will pull all the players together so we can start on this soon, explained Wilson. Please note, you are going to start to see things like the first-year action plan where we opened community input sessions. We encourage everyone to join and when we call specific individuals for their input, please answer.
- e. Phyllis Katz stated that we had one meeting with a group that was looking at creating some safe locations at shopping centers for people to live in RVs and vehicles. Has there been anything else on that front? asked Katz.
  - i. Wilson reported that the last thing she heard was that one of the departments within the county was supposed to be looking for land.
    1. Suwansupa reported that staff is actively looking and building a presentation for a safe parking program, and it will be presented soon.
  - ii. Tim Heavin reported that there is some land available to use off Callate Adobe, and the owner is willing to let us use that land.

1. Wilson responded that we are familiar with that land and have reached out to county staff to discuss this further.
- f. Lena Bustamante reported that on March 3 Gathering for Women will be partnering with the human trafficking symposium event in collaboration with MCOE, CHS, and MCDSS. It will be a virtual event and we will have some awesome speakers. We will discuss what is human trafficking and receive perspectives from law enforcement, spiritual communities, the DA's office, the end to Human Trafficking Coalition, and the West Coast Children's Clinic.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM**

**Minutes taken and prepared by Jake Fenton**