Leadership Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Leadership Council Co-Chairs: Kollin Kosmicki (San Benito County Board of Supervisors), Kate Daniels (County of Monterey Board of Supervisors)

Members Present & Affiliations: Dana Cleary (CHISPA), Mike LeBarre (Mayor of King City), Jill Allen & Casey Powers (Coalition of Homeless Services Providers), Anna Velazquez (Mayor of City of Soledad), Eva Maria Jeronimo (County of Monterey DSS), Roxanne Wilson & Sarah Federico (County of Monterey - CAO), Tim Heavin and Wes White (LEAD), Dennis Donohue (Mayor of City of Salinas), Donna Smith (Monterey County Office of Education), Phyllis Katz (CRLA), Zuleika Boykin (Housing Authority)

Guests: Garen Nigon and Meadow Robinson (Homebase), Shawn Stone (Community Human Services), Megan Hunter and Beatriz Trujillo (City of Soledad), Greg Baker (Community Homeless Solutions), Cindy Joerger & Dania Valdez (County of Monterey - CAO), Frank Green III (Victory Mission), David Kilburn (ASN),Caroline Carroll (LEAD), Will Myers (Veterans Transition Center), Ariadne Sambrano, John Gil (County of Monterey DSS), Serena Solis, Barbara Dickason, and other community members

CHSP Staff: Katrina McKenzie (Executive Director), Oliver Elbert (HMIS System Admin.), Denise Bloodsaw (CARS Mgr.), Abrena Ganaden (CoC Program Mgr.), Andrew Sandoval (Management Analyst)

1. **Welcome, Roll Call, & Announcements: Meeting began at 3:30 p.m.**

2. **Additions/Modifications to the Agenda: None**

3. **Public Comment:**

4. **System Coordination**

   CARS Policy Revisions

   Homebase representative Garen Nigon presented proposed revisions to the CARS Assessment Tool and scoring framework based on findings from the coordinated entry system evaluation and PAT Workgroup. Revisions aimed to address identified disparities in assessment outcomes, reduce reliance on intrusive or duplicative VI-SPDAT questions, and better reflect community priority populations. Proposed scoring changes included adjustments for veterans, survivors of domestic violence, families, length of homelessness, disability/morbidity, and unsheltered households.

   Council discussion focused primarily on veteran scoring. Members discussed the availability of veteran-specific resources, local service capacity, and balancing prioritization across populations, including families and medically frail households.

   A motion to approve the assessment scoring as presented by Homebase, with veterans scored at 1 point, failed to receive majority support.

Motion to approve the assessment scoring revisions as presented, with the amendment that veterans remain at 2 points instead of 1 point.

Motioned by Mike LeBarre. Seconded by Kollin Kosmicki. Motioned carried unanimously.

Nigon then presented corresponding revisions to the CARS Policies and Procedures to align with the updated assessment tool. Changes included replacing VI-SPDAT references with CARS Assessment language, removing VI-SPDAT-specific procedures, adding unsheltered households as a priority population, updating scoring references, and making minor grammatical edits.

Proposed policy revisions also included a new **non-emergency transfer policy** to support transfers between supportive housing programs, including rapid rehousing, permanent housing, and permanent supportive housing, when a different housing intervention better meets a household's needs.

Council discussion addressed transfer eligibility, initiation of transfers, and continuity of chronic homelessness eligibility during program transitions.

Motioned by Casey Powers. Seconded by Jill Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan Response: Ad Hoc Development Group Request**

McKenzie reported that Monterey County Behavioral Health opened public comment on its BHSA Integrated Plan on April 3, 2026. Preliminary review by CHSP raised concerns that the proposed plan would significantly reduce funding for homeless housing programs and related supportive services in favor of expanded behavioral health treatment and clinical infrastructure.

McKenzie requested the formation of an ad hoc committee to review the draft plan and prepare a formal Leadership Council response before the public comment deadline. Volunteers for the ad hoc committee included Tim Heavin, Wes White, Roxanne Wilson, and Megan Hunter, representing the City of Soledad.

Motioned by Mike LeBarre. Seconded by Kate Daniels. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Funding**
    a. **HUD CoC NOFO Update**

McKenzie reported that U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the first round of renewal funding on March 31 for eligible projects with contracts expiring in the first quarter of 2026. CHSP staff are reviewing project contract dates with all HUD-funded programs and coordinating with HUD to address any missing or inaccurate program information.

McKenzie also provided an update on preparations for the FY2026 CoC NOFO, expected by June 1 under the 2026 Appropriations Act. Ongoing litigation related to the FY2025 NOFO continues to create uncertainty, including the possibility that proposed policy changes from 2025, such as a permanent housing cap, may reappear in the 2026 competition.

The CoC's February renewal submission totaling $8.4 million remains active. Approximately $1.3 million has been awarded to date, with more than $6 million still pending for homeless programs serving Monterey County and San Benito County. CHSP will continue planning under the assumption that renewals will be funded while preparing

for potential administrative and timing impacts.

b. FY2027 Presidential Budget Proposal - Homelessness Impacts

McKenzie provided an overview of the FY2027 Presidential Budget Proposal and noted that, while the proposal is not final and remains subject to congressional approval, it signals potential significant changes to federal homelessness funding and policy. Proposed changes include possible elimination of the CoC program and the consolidation of funding under the Emergency Solutions Grant structure.

McKenzie shared that the proposal could reduce federal homelessness funding by approximately $4.42 billion, with potential downstream impacts to related housing programs, including HOME, CDBG, and supports for people with disabilities. Mike LeBarre suggested drafting a letter highlighting the strength of the local CoC system and the potential harm these changes could cause to regional progress. McKenzie agreed to provide impact data for Leadership Council members engaging with legislative offices, and Tim Heavin shared advocacy resources from the Bring California Home Coalition.

c. Community Human Services Shelter Support - Shawn Stone: Emergency Shelter Update *(see attached presentation)*

Community Human Services Executive Director Shawn Stone presented funding challenges impacting Casa de Noche Buena and Shuman HeartHouse, two emergency shelters serving women and families in Seaside and Monterey, respectively. Each shelter operates approximately 35 beds and serves about 80 individuals annually.

Stone shared that both programs provide shelter alongside comprehensive supportive services, including case management, housing navigation, basic needs assistance, and connections to healthcare, behavioral health, employment, and benefits. Each shelter costs approximately $1.2 million annually to operate.

Performance data showed strong housing outcomes, with Casa de Noche Buena achieving a 50% exit rate to permanent housing and an additional 24% to temporary housing, while Shuman HeartHouse reported a 57% exit rate to permanent housing and 17% to temporary housing over a two-year average. Stone noted that without additional funding, both programs may face service reductions, capacity decreases, reduced case management, conversion to overnight-only shelter, or possible closure.

Projected funding deficits, assuming no new funding, were estimated at approximately $300,000 for Casa de Noche Buena and $650,000 for Shuman HeartHouse in the next fiscal year, with deficits increasing in subsequent years. Donna Smith emphasized the importance of these shelters for families served by the Monterey County Office of Education, and Roxanne Wilson noted that the SHARE Center is also facing significant future funding challenges.

d. HHAP Updates

McKenzie reported that CHSP received an HHAP Round 6 award of approximately $3.7 million and is awaiting standard agreements from California Department of Housing and Community Development. CHSP is delaying any local competition until there is greater clarity on the FY2026 U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development CoC NOFO and its potential impact on local funding. Current planning includes the possibility of prioritizing direct allocations to high-performing programs facing funding gaps or risk of closure.

McKenzie also reported that HHAP Rounds 2 and 3 subrecipients currently project full expenditure of funds by the June 30, 2026 deadline, with no reallocations anticipated at this time. One agency identified a small potential unspent balance between $1,000 and $5,000.

For the HHAP 5 Youth Set-Aside, McKenzie shared that the remaining balance of approximately $181,000 had previously been allocated to the City of Soledad, and CHSP is awaiting final information before issuing an award letter and beginning contract negotiations.

McKenzie further reported that available HHAP interest from Rounds 2 through 5 totaled approximately $110,000 as of March 2026. Interest funds are not subject to the same expenditure timelines as program funds, though CHSP intends to align their use with existing funding timelines.

Motioned by Roxanne Wilson. Seconded by Kate Daniels. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Bezos Family First Award

McKenzie reported that CHSP issued a targeted Letter of Intent to programs directly serving unhoused and at-risk families in the community. The process is not an open competition. LOIs are due April 24, 2026, and CHSP is conducting rolling interviews, scoring, and follow-up as submissions are received.

7. Governance

a. Monitoring & Evaluations: System Performance Measures Analysis Report

Roxanne Wilson presented the draft System Performance Analysis for CA-506 on behalf of the Monitoring and Evaluations Committee. The report reviewed HUD System Performance Measures alongside local housing and economic indicators, including median family income, rent burden, rental vacancy rates, and fair market rents in Monterey County and San Benito County.

Wilson reported that both counties have experienced modest increases in median family income; however, housing affordability remains a significant challenge, particularly for households earning below 50% and 30% of area median income. She noted that Monterey County continues to experience a constrained rental market, with vacancy rates generally between 2% and 3%, well below the approximately 5% rate considered healthy. Fair market rents have also risen significantly since 2017, further intensifying housing instability for low-income households.

Motioned by Anna Velazquez. Seconded by Casey Powers. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Planning

a. Unsheltered HIC/PIT Update

Agenda item tabled due to time constraints.

b. Lead Me Home Plan Update and Summit Planning

McKenzie reported that the current Lead Me Home Plan is scheduled to conclude in June

2026. CHSP is compiling updates for a combined Year 4 and Year 5 progress report and will distribute a survey to gather outstanding data from partners. CHSP is also exploring an extension of the current plan through 2026 while the CoC navigates ongoing federal funding uncertainty and awaits the FY2026 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development CoC NOFO.

McKenzie also shared that CHSP has begun planning for the 2027 Summit on Homelessness in partnership with the County of Monterey and the Monterey County Office of Education. Planning efforts include re-envisioning the Summit to incorporate training opportunities for the homeless services provider network and strategic planning sessions to help inform the next Lead Me Home Plan.

McKenzie requested consideration of a modest registration fee of $20–$30 to help offset event costs. The Summit is estimated to cost approximately $50,000, and prior events experienced significant no-show rates resulting in unused resources. A registration fee could generate an estimated $6,000–$10,000 while CHSP continues pursuing sponsorships. Leadership Council members interested in supporting Summit planning were encouraged to contact McKenzie.

Motioned by Mike LeBarre. Seconded by Jill Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **HMIS**
    a. **Data Reporting Updates**
    Agenda item tabled due to time constraints.

10. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Danielle Francisco