

CITY OF OXNARD
COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2022

On Monday, June 6, 2022 at 4:00pm the Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened in person at the Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street. Chair Yukio Okano called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Yukio Okano, Vice-Chair Ruby Durias, Commissioners Alejandro Fregoso, Rene Camper-Stewart, David Littell, Jack Villa

Regrets/Not Present: Commissioner Rafael Ochoa, Housing Director Emilio Ramirez, Compliance Services Manager Karl Lawson

Staff members present: Jessica Petrillo, Christian Lopez

Public Comment Speakers: Robert Anthony Gonzalez

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Anthony Gonzalez - Community member

Mr. Gonzalez commented on his experience with the Sheriff's department, to clarify a question asked by the Commission during the Point In Time Count Presentation.

3. INFO/CONSENT

a. Minutes of Meeting on 7 March 2022

Motion to accept the Minutes of Meeting on 6 May, 2022, with the exception of amending the section 7.B paragraph by removing the last sentence and replacing it with the following: "However, the correct bylaws were renewed by email communication among the CAG Chairs. It was recommended that the 2019 bylaws, already approved by the Commission on Homelessness in 2020, be forwarded to the City Council. Thus, the Commission on Homelessness is still operating under the 2016 bylaws until the 2019 bylaws are approved by the City Council."

Moved by Commissioner Villa, seconded by Commissioner Fregoso.

All in favor.

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. Point In Time Count

Jenn Harkey, Program Management Analyst, for the County of Ventura Executive Office presented on the 2022 Point In Time Count for Ventura County.

Questions:

Commissioner Villa: When the Count was conducted, were the unincorporated areas in the County included? Was the staffing equitable, how do you determine where the staff will be sent? Yes. The CoC works with City staff and law enforcement ahead of the Count to determine where the target areas are located. On the day of the Count, a lot of the participants are within City limits. The CoC then assesses a map to determine the areas that were not reached and responds to those areas within 7 days of the Count. This includes services sites and encampments.

Commissioner Villa: Is there a separate Count conducted for the individuals that might have been missed? Is there metrics to figure out a number of the individuals missed. Within the Homeless Management Information System.

Commissioner Villa: One of the slides showed that the City of Moorpark had zero (homeless persons counted), I can't imagine any city in the County having zero (homeless persons counted). Can you explain how that got to zero? The CoC went out to the City of Moorpark the day of the Point In Time Count, with 3 volunteers and 2 sheriff deputies, to do an unsheltered homeless count, as there are no shelters, no transitional housing, no other services other than Catholic charities in that location. Catholic charities staff also interviewed homeless persons that day as a part of the Count. They asked where did you sleep the night before, and if they didn't answer homeless or that related to inhabitable, then they wouldn't be counted.

Commissioner Villa: You talked about the jail and individuals in jail, is there a count of individuals being released from jail during that Count? Is there some kind of system that accounts for individuals being released from jail, what their needs are, do they have a place to stay after they are released, are they provided any services? The CoC does reach out to the Sheriff's Department, to ask for data on an annual basis that tells how many individuals have been released that are homeless or need placement. However, for the Point In Time Count, because of that one snapshot, they do ask if anyone is released on that particular day/night and it would be counted, and at the time it is not recorded as part of the unsheltered count but is recorded as "at risk of being homeless" count.

Commissioner Villa: When someone is incarcerated in Ventura County and they are being released, are they meeting with someone from the County to assure that they will have a place to stay for the night or if they need a job referral or counseling referrals? From the understanding from Sheriff Deputies, within 30 days of their release or within a couple of days of their stay, they are asked that question: Do you have resources, do you have a place to stay, and they make referrals; especially to the County Human Services Agency for case management.

Commissioner Villa: What is the age of those individuals being counted? Anyone eighteen years of age or older are being counted as the adult population.

Commissioner Littell: Does the County have a sense of medical support - past hospitalization for the homeless? For individuals that need what is similar to nursing home care? The County oversees the MediCal program, so when people are enrolled in active MediCal or need to be added for medical services, the County contracts with GoldCoast Health Plan as managed care providers. There are some individuals that receive state level MediCal, who are on disability as well, or seniors who have medicare and medical. So those clients who are out of the hospital, may have a recuperative care program that offers thirty beds within the County, twenty of those beds are currently at the Oxnard Vagabond location (Casa Aliento). The National Health Foundation oversees recuperative care. Anytime anyone who is homeless or unhoused, and is exiting the hospital, the discharge planner from that hospital can contact the recuperative care program for bed placement and it is a transition out of the hospital and they have actual medical care at that location while someone is transitioning, if they are not eligible for a long time care placement or rehabilitation center.

Commissioner Littell: What plans do you know of that are in place to implement more beds? GoldCoast Health Plan is receiving additional funding from the State this coming term, FY 22-23, through the CalAIM Program and CalAIM is going to give additional incentives to offer more recuperative care, as well as more services for people who have medical needs that are in shelter, in a homeless status, or in permanent supportive housing. The hope is that this program will help implement and add more beds for recuperative care.

Commissioner Fregoso: Can you go over the criteria on how data is collected into the system and how do people meet that criteria? All of the homeless service providers that are contracted with the HMIS system (Homeless Management Information System) are participating and entering clients or if someone is already known to the system they would know which case manager or organization they are working with or where they've been referred to. That's why having that coordinated entry system is so beneficial, because that is where the information goes in. The street outreach teams do a lot of that, also at the One Stop locations throughout the County, they are constantly doing interviews with individuals and asking if they have been referred to the program and following up on those referrals.

Chair Okano: A table from the presentation notes the number of sheltered and unsheltered people by city. County wide there was a 25 percent increase. It appears that there was a 22 percent increase in unsheltered people in Oxnard, a large increase over the 2020-22 year period and it appears that the extra beds at the Vagabond and maybe other places account for more shelter people, is that correct? Yes, within the shelter count in Oxnard, Mercy House, which was at a limited capacity due to COVID (serving 80 out of 100 beds due to social distancing requirements. There was an increase at the Vagabond (Casa Aliento). That motel was able to have more people, by what is called non-congregate sheltering. Some of the other shelters include Gabriel's House, The Rescue Mission, The Lighthouse. Even though some of those programs may not be serving out of those grant funded programs, they still receive assistance from the County, within the CoC.

Chair Okano: Was there anything surprising to you about the data? The number of chronically homeless. Includes two types of criteria: the length that someone is homeless being a year or longer and the second is a disability of some sort. It is self recorded when individuals are being surveyed in the streets. However, that increase is significant from 2020.

Commissioner Villa: Does the survey record where the movement of these homeless individuals are? Whether they are going from city to city within the County? The survey does ask the individual what is the city of residency and how long have you lived there.

Commissioner Villa: You talked about prioritizing housing and a list? How many are on that list and is there a priority on that list? The coordinated entry system collects data on who is being prioritized for supportive housing placement and for priority, there is a set of vulnerability assessments that the individual must complete. Some of the questions asked include: the length of time that the individual has been homeless, how vulnerable, how many systems are they participating in; are they consistently interacting with law enforcement, are they in the hospital frequently, fleeing domestic violence, disabilities or service needs. Those are some of the factors that would increase someone's score.

5. REPORTS FROM STAFF

a. Director's Report

Homeless Assistance Coordinator, Jessica Petrillo provide the following report on behalf of Housing Director Emilio Ramirez:

- Introduction of new Assistant Housing Director, Albert Ramirez
- Introduction of Commissioner Rafael Ochoa - Postponed for the following Commission meeting
- Homeless Solutions Center - (2nd and B) Groundbreaking ceremony
- Oxnard Navigation Center
- Gabriel's House RFP

Questions:

No questions were asked by the Commission

6. COMMISSION BUSINESS

a. Safe Parking Sub Committee Proposal Attached

Recommendation: Approval

The Safe Parking Subcommittee members include: Commissioners Durias, Littell, & Okano. Jessica Petrillo serves as staff support.

The Safe Parking Subcommittee proposal was accepted by the Commission at the meeting of May 2, 2022. The proposal was then forwarded to the City Manager's Office for review.

b. Foul Weather Shelter Sub Committee Update

Recommendation: Receive and File

The Foul Weather Shelter Sub Committee members include: Commissioners Fregos, Littell, & Okano.

The Foul Weather Shelter Subcommittee proposal was accepted by the Commission at the meeting of May 2, 2022. The proposal was then forwarded to the City Manager's Office for review.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Housing First Sub Committee Formation

Recommendation: Approval

Motion to reinstate the Housing First Sub Committee. Motioned by Commissioner Villa, second by Commissioner Camper-Stewart.

All in favor.

b. Day Drop In Center Site Search

Recommendation: Receive and File

This update has been postponed and will be given at the next Commission meeting by Housing Director, Emilio Ramirez.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

No further announcements or other information was provided by the Commission.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 pm.