



**TEHAMA COUNTY
CONTINUUM of CARE**

Tehama County Continuum of Care
Executive Council Meeting
MINUTES

July 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Candy Carlson, Tehama County Board of Supervisors
Andrea C. Curry, Empower Tehama, CoC & HMIS Coordinator
Johnna Jones, Red Bluff City Council
Gail Locke, Continuum of Care Chairperson
Tara Loucks-Shepherd, Tehama County Department of Social Services
Valerie Lucero, Tehama County Health Services Agency
Jim Southwick, Tehama County Department of Education

Excused:
Jeremiah Fears, Corning Police Department
David Madrigal, Tehama County Community
Action Agency
E.C. Ross, P.A.T.H
Notes by: Andrea C. Curry

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Discussion</i>
Discussion of minutes & agenda from previous Executive Council Meeting	The minutes & agenda from the Executive Council meeting held on June 24, 2020 were made available prior to this meeting for review. No revisions requested, approved as emailed.
Stakeholders' Meeting/Vista Way Navigation Center Update	Val reported that planning for the navigation center on the Lay Ave. property is moving forward and that the name of the committee that previously met as the Vista Way Executive Committee will be changed to the Navigation Center Executive Committee. Many of the same members will remain, and Jayme Bottke will be added, as she has been involved with the planning for the original site and on other projects. The committee met on July 16 in person in the Tuscan Room at County Admin, with a remote option for members who wanted to join via conference call. The committee is looking into the possibility of purchasing a 10,000 sq ft steel building that is being offered at a discount by a manufacturer who had originally prepared it for sale to a church who did not ultimately purchase it.
COVID-19 Emergency Interventions	<p>The COVID-19 Fairgrounds Shelter and the Project Roomkey Isolation Trailers are still being operated at the Tehama District Fairgrounds by PATH. Currently, there are 32 persons being served in the combined project, 5 of whom are in isolation trailers, and another 10 of whom are being housed in the high-risk dorm but do not require isolation. So far, there have been no outbreaks of COVID-19 among the homeless population.</p> <p>COVID-19 Cases: Val shared that positive cases of COVID-19 have continued to increase and is now at 165. Transmission appears to be taking place predominantly through social and family gatherings, although some individuals may have gone on to expose others at their workplaces, as well. Public Health is encouraging use of facial coverings and promoting social distancing. TCHSA is working with a vendor to create a more detailed dashboard for their website that will provide additional statistics such as demographics of persons testing positive, hospitalization rates, etc. Schools plan to open for in-person instruction in August. Being put on the state watch list could impact schools' ability to provide in-person instruction, although schools that open prior to a county's placement on the watchlist will be permitted to remain open unless a certain percentage of students/staff test positive or are exposed and required to quarantine. TCDE and Public Health are working together to ensure student and school staff safety and are providing messaging to parents and students that the best way for us to stay off the state watch list and keep schools open is for the whole community to observe social distancing, frequent handwashing, sanitizing surfaces regularly and wearing facial coverings. Jim stated that Val and Dr. Wickenheiser have met with the education community regarding this messaging and that the superintendents have met with Expect More Tehama regarding continued community messaging strategies.</p>

Johnna asked if the county has seen any re-infection of individuals who have already had COVID-19 but have recovered. Val stated that this has not been a situation that has been seen in Tehama County, although Public Health is not actively seeking out recovered individuals for re-testing.

Topic

Discussion

Capacity Building

Homekey Program funding opportunity: Andrea reported that HCD has released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Homekey Program, the objective of which is to increase availability of interim and permanent housing stock. Examples provided in the NOFA include purchasing motels or hotels being used for Project Roomkey to continue using as non-congregate shelters and/or to convert to permanent housing projects, and purchasing other structures with certificates of occupancy that could be converted for these uses. The majority of the available funds (\$600M) originate with the State of California's allocation of federal Coronavirus Relief Funds made available through the CARES Act, and a small portion of the available funds (\$50M) are from the state General Fund. Pass-through funds from the CARES Act must be fully expended by December 31, 2020. Applications will be accepted through the end of September, but priority will be given to applications received by August 13 that propose projects that meet Tier 1 criteria - development of permanent housing units or interim housing units with a coordinated plan for exits to permanent housing. Applications received by August 13 will also be subject to regional allocations. If there are funds left to award after August 13, all funds will be put in a statewide pool and applications will be funded according to the date they were submitted. Tehama County is in the Balance of State region, which includes a total of about \$18.6M and includes 22 rural and/or small counties. Andrea has submitted a question to HCD asking if the funds can be used to support congregate shelters like the Navigation Center project, but does not expect that it will be eligible. Even if it is, it's not likely that it could be used for that project prior to December 31, 2020. Gail mentioned that Trinity County is applying for funds to rehab an assisted living facility and suggested that we consider that as a model.

Youth Homelessness Services (YHS) Local RFP: A Welcome Meeting will be held for Children First FFA regarding their YHS award for the Homeless Youth Hub prior to the beginning of the academic year. Attendees will include Stormy and Barbara from TCDE, Jack Witt from Children First, and Andrea from Empower Tehama. Topics will include the referral process between school homeless liaisons and the Hub and technical guidance regarding drawing down funds and expense documentation. Jim reported that TCDE has received notice of their Education for Homeless Children and Youth funding for the coming year and would like to increase their contribution to the project from \$14,000 to \$25,000.

Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (ESG-CV): Andrea reported that she submitted Tehama CoC's application for ESG-CV funding on July 17, 2020. As discussed at June's meeting, the application budget included \$120K to be used for Homelessness Prevention to address the expected increased need for assisting families facing eviction who will become homeless if they lose their current housing. Selection of providers to fund with ESG-CV funds must be conducted using a fair and open process. A discussion took place regarding the possibility of using an abbreviated RFP process to ensure that the funds were available for use as quickly as possible. Andrea will draft an RFP and a brief application for the council to review.

Andrea suggested that since ESG-CV funds can be used to retroactively reimburse expenditures related to COVID-19 response, the CoC consider using ESG-CV funds for operation of the fairgrounds shelter since March 30 rather than expending CESH 2018 funds as originally approved. Because CESH 2018 funds have a spending deadline of December 31, 2023, while ESG-CV funds must be expended by June 30, 2022, this change would potentially allow the CoC to use CESH 2018 funds to support operations and/or necessary furnishings and other supplies for the Navigation Center as was the plan prior to COVID-19. Andrea also explained that the CoC is required to spend no more than 40% of CESH funds spent in any fiscal year on Emergency Interventions but because of the way the math worked out for the staffing and facility space used at the fairgrounds for shelter vs. the space used to provide Housing Case Management related to Rental Assistance, the CoC is over its 40% allowance for Emergency Interventions. **MOTION:** Johnna made a motion that the Executive Council authorize re-allocation of past expenditures related to COVID-19 Fairgrounds Shelter/Isolation Units originally expensed to CESH 2018 to ESG-CV in amount up to \$250,000. Val seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) Program Funding: The Council reviewed additional allocation of CESH 2018 funds in the amount of \$102,000 as proposed via email on July 15. Johnna posed a question regarding the reason for authorizing CESH 2018 funds for this use instead of ESG-CV funds. Andrea explained that because July 1 was the start of a new fiscal year and because PATH is increasing its focus on Rental Assistance in preparation for the expected closing of the fairgrounds shelter, the CoC is free to expend more CESH 2018 funds. Additionally, expenditure of some CESH 2018 funds is necessary to stay on track to expend all CESH funds by the final spending deadline. **MOTION:** Tara made a motion that the council authorize

\$102,000 in CESH 2018 funding to support ongoing operation of the fairgrounds shelter. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Discussion</i>
HMIS/Coordinated Entry	Review of the 2020 Sheltered Point-in-Time Count Report Draft: The draft of the 2020 Sheltered Point-in-Time Count was distributed to council members prior to this meeting. Andrea pointed out that on January 26, 2020, 188 persons were being served in Rapid Rehousing programs, including PATH RRH, BOOST Housing Support Program, and Empower Tehama’s Rental Assistance Program for victims of domestic violence. This is the most that the CoC has reported in RRH in any PIT Count. Shelter count was similar to previous years (51 in 2020 vs. 55 in 2019). Because time was limited during this meeting for this agenda item, it will be placed on August’s agenda as well in case any further discussion is warranted.

The next Executive Council Meeting is scheduled for **August 26, 2020** at 9:00 AM. The August meeting will be held via Zoom.