

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting: in-person at Center for Community Health and through Webex online platform
July 3, 2024

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>EXCUSED</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Alishia Topper, Vice Chair	Melanie Green	Karyn Kameroff	Abby Molloy
Rob Perkins, Secretary	Joyce Cooper	Megan Mulsoff	
Amy Roark	Ernie Suggs	Bridget McLemen	
David Poland	Brittini Lasseigne	Nickeia Hunter	
Clover Spears			
Diana Perez			
Faye Solomone			
Jamie Spinelli			

Guests: CODAs interpreters; Ann Hawkins (City of Vancouver); Samantha Whitley (City of Vancouver); Dale Whitley (Council for the Homeless); Sesany Fennie-Jones (Council for the Homeless)

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Approval of May 2024 Minutes

Diana Perez made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Rob Perkins and approved unanimously by the board.

III. Point in Time Count and Homeless Connect Data Presentation (Org Std 5.9)

Dale Whitley, Homeless Management Information System Coordinator for Council for the Homeless

- Point in Time Count: Represents the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night. This year it was January 25th. Required by HUD and WA Dept. of Commerce. Only counts people experiencing literal homelessness (HUD definition). New tools each year. Aids planning and funding determinations.
- Data sources: sheltered count (HMIS), unsheltered count (non-HMIS: service locations, school districts, street count, project homeless connect event).
- 2024 process highlights: year-round professional outreach teams planned and performed street count, conducted surveys using mobile app, growth in attendance at Project Homeless Connect.
- Results: 1366 people experiencing homelessness on Jan 25, 2024 (5% increase from 2023), 669 unsheltered (0.4% decrease), 483 sheltered (13% increase), 214 transitional housing (7% increase). 41% women, 56% men, 323 chronically homeless, 98 DV survivors, 39% people of color.
- Rate of increase may be slowing. 2023 had 9% increase and 2022 had 31% increase.
- Increase in sheltered count indicates more available beds.
- Sheltered chronically homeless count increased 47%, unsheltered chronically homeless count increased 33%. Could indicate that new shelters are housing more chronically homeless people.
- 19 more unsheltered families with children.
- Reduction in unsheltered seniors. Had previously grown each year.
- 29% reduction in overall Veterans counted
- Homelessness affects BIPOC people at disproportionate rate, which has grown.
- 8% of unsheltered homeless identified as deaf, 9% of sheltered, 1% of unstably housed.
- Affordable housing is necessary to exit clients from homelessness

Questions:

- Q: Was there any age range data aggregation? How did this intersect with the school liaison data? Was there data about people with disabilities?
 - Yes, this data was collected but there is not a way to analyze by multiple demographics at once. Contact Dale if you want to see specific data.
 - School homeless liaisons may have a better idea of the specific types of families and children

who are impacted.

- Q: Concern about disproportionate representation of BIPOC community.
 - The Pacific Islander community represents a particularly high portion of this data, which is very concerning.
- Discussion about differences between HUD homeless definitions and McKinney-Fento homeless definition (used in school districts). This impacts how people are counted, especially youth.
- Contact Dale Whitley for more information: dwhitley@councilforthehomeless.org, 360-993-9571

IV. July 2023-March 2024 Outcomes Report (Org. Standards 1.3, 4.4, 5.9, 8.7)

- Report was sent out via email and is available on the CAAB website.
- Orange section shows CAP/HCRS programs and report periods, green section shows annual proposed goals, achieved YTD, and percent achieved, blue section shows annual contract amount, total spent as on March 31, balance, and percent spent.
- Most programs are at around 75% of achieved goals and percent spent. For those outside the target range, we will receive explanations from providers next quarter.
- CAP programs: The Clark College Financial Wellness program ended on January 5, 2024 and remaining funds have been reallocated to other CSBG programs. The Share Hunger Response program spent out all funds for this year in Oct 2023. We expect all other contracts to fully spend out by June 30. All CAP contracts have been renewed for another year at the same amount.
- HCRS programs: The Share HO program is currently billing to other grants. New programs which started at the beginning of 2024 (EPRAP and REF) have lower spending and percentages of goals achieved. We are working with these providers to ensure they get the programs up and running and utilize or reallocate funds as needed. Any remaining state and local funds at the end of this FY will be recaptured and used to supplement the House Bill deficit.

V. City of Vancouver Affordable Housing and Homelessness update (Org. Standard 5.9)

- Underwriting the CDBG awards made in the spring. Environmental review and contract finalization.
- Started convening a community group to look at rental unit habitability, and how to support landlords and tenants.
- Community Court has been operating at Recovery Café and is growing. Starting Friday, it is moving to the Zen Building.
- Q: Will the new Supreme Court camping ban decision have an impact on Vancouver?
 - A: So far, there have been no changes. Existing ordinances still stand and are constitutional. The city does not have the shelter, housing, or staffing capacity to implement a camping ban. The city is studying this decision, but does not plan to change what they are doing. To clarify, this decision did not criminalize camping, it gave power to jurisdictions to criminalize camping.

VI. Task Force updates

- Legislative Advocacy
 - Task force decided to base legislative priority areas on CNA results (food assistance, dental assistance, housing assistance, asset building, and utility assistance. Amy Roark made a motion for the CAAB to approve this legislative agenda, which was seconded by David Poland. Diana Perez requested amendment to prioritize addressing disparities for BIPOC community. Amy Roark considered this a friendly amendment. The motion was passed by unanimous board vote.
- CNA Task Force
 - CNA is still being finalized for publication. Will be distributed when finalized.
- Policy Task Force
 - Working to revise CAAB code of conduct to include ethical conduct and behavioral expectations. Final version will be brought to the CAAB for approval.

VII. CAAB Equity Initiative Discussion

- Six-part equity training series has been scheduled for first Wed of Aug, Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, June.

Ma.Caroline Lopez will facilitate trainings. Attendance expectations will be the same as regular CAAB meetings. Hybrid option will be available but in-person attendance is highly encouraged.

- Discussion about priority topics and goals for these trainings.
- Q: Is this training required if members are already taking similar trainings outside of CAAB?
 - A: Yes, these trainings will be specific to the CAAB.
- Q: Is this training tied to areas identified in the Strategic Plan?
 - A: Yes, the Strategic Plan has been sent to Ma.Caroline and those goals will be represented in the training.
- Q: Is there compensation for CAAB members to attend this training? It is best practice to compensate low-income community members for their participation in this type of training.
 - A: Not at this time, but Abby will bring this request to County staff and see if compensation is possible.
- Members expressed the need to tie the goals and outcomes of these trainings to the purpose of the CAAB, assessment of where we are at, concerns about time commitment and accessibility, and suggested HUD PWLE compensation resources.

VIII. Open Public Forum

IX. Other Business

Adjourn 10:30 am