

Minutes of the Santa Cruz Committee to End Homelessness

January 25, 2022, at 2pm

Members Present:

Yara Castro, Mariposa Community Clinics

Edna Olea and Alberto Durazo, Pinal Hispanic Council

Helen Sanchez, Community Partners Inc.

Rosa E. Lopez-Moreno, HOPE, Inc.

Robert Thompson and Frida Rodriguez, Nogales Housing Authority

Keith Dennis, SEAGO

The meeting began at 2:10pm. Keith Dennis from SEAGO announced the meeting had started. He discussed the Arizona Department of Housing's recent outreach efforts and how he'd been on a couple of calls in which the new Director was present. He expressed that this outreach is encouraging. He also mentioned that Cristina Benitez, who used to work in the SEAGO region on homelessness issues, now works for ADOH, and he intends to invite her to the next Santa Cruz LCEH meeting

He then mentioned that the Point in Time count had been moved from the last week of January to the last week of February. He mentioned a rumor that Pima County may be canceling their PIT count, and while it may still be the case that the PIT count gets canceled beyond Pima County, at this time there are no plans to cancel the count.

Dennis then talked about the case conferencing/by name list meetings and how he'd just purchased a license for the HMIS software and received training. He said the likelihood of him using the HMIS software on a regular basis is low. He said it is time to get the new LCEH to the point where they are entering referrals and requests for information into the HMIS system. Coordinated entry meetings: should they be once a month or every other month?

Helen Sanchez from Community Partners said the meetings should be monthly. Edna Olea from Pinal Hispanic agreed. A discussion then ensued about when those meetings should take place and the differences between the main coalition and the by name list meetings. Yara asked how much time these BNL meetings might take. Dennis speculated that initially the meetings might be longer but as things progress they should become shorter. It really will depend on the case load going forward.

Edna suggested the meetings might be scheduled for one hour on the calendar, even if they go for more or less time. The second Tuesday of each month will be the date for BNLs, the first being February 8th.

Dennis said the main coalition meetings should be monthly for now but that as things get settled with the LCEH we might go to bi-monthly meetings.

Next meeting will be February 23rd

Moving on, the LCEH began to address the Local Governance Charter before a long digression into how CE/BNL/HMIS would work going forward.

During this discussion it was requested that Dennis share the by name list excel sheet the group had been maintaining before so that the names can be properly entered into HMIS. He said he would send this to Helen Sanchez along with the password needed to access the sheet. He asked if Helen could begin inputting the names into HMIS. Sanchez said as long as all the Requests for Information are completed for all persons on that list.

After this digression, the group came back to the governance charter. The last items were committee and officer assignments, and these assignments were made. Dennis suggested the LCEH take a vote on the charter now since the remaining items have now been completed. Edna agreed; if ADOH has any issues with it they can always tell us and we can fix it, but we won't know until we send it off.

Dennis moved to approve the charter; Yara Castro seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion then turned to Nogales' Emergency Housing Vouchers. Robert Thompson of the Nogales Housing Authority said there are four available currently. An access point is needed to properly enter persons into HMIS. Yara said Mariposa was working on referrals and becoming an HMIS access point, but not everyone they were working with qualified for the vouchers. A discussion around cooperation between agencies to ensure these vouchers can be redeemed ensued between Castro, Thompson, Frieda Rodriguez and Olea. The group agreed that the BNL meeting should be sooner than Feb 8, and it was agreed that Feb 1 would be the new date.

Dennis asked how long Nogales' Section 8 waiting list is. Thompson indicated the wait was long. 70 applications currently on the list for Section 8 vouchers currently was the answer. However, Thompson indicated there were not enough available units to absorb existing Section 8 vouchers.

The meeting ended at 3:20pm.