



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

Date: Friday, September 16th, 2022, 1 pm – 3 pm

Location: Join the meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82009662337?pwd=cG5JSUpCYWVlajZJSk14eHFtVOZDUT09&from=addon>

Call in information:

1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 820 0966 2337

Passcode: 361745

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions 	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Approval of Minutes 	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment - Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda. 	- <i>Members of the public</i>
3:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Progress – Recap of Committee’s work fiscal year to date 	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
3:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for Improvement – Proposed strategies for improving Prevention/Diversion and Rapid Exit services to reduce unsheltered homelessness 	- <i>Jamie Schechter, H3</i>
4:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan-Do-Study-Act – Develop plans for small tests of change to improve Prevention/Diversion and Rapid Exit 	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
4:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps 	- <i>All</i>
4:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcements 	- <i>All</i>

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness to a majority of members less than 72 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 2400 Bisso Lane, Building D, 2nd Floor, Concord, CA 94520 during normal business hours. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full workday prior to the published meeting time. The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend meetings. Contact the H3 office at least 72 hours before the meeting: Phone: (925) 608-6700; Email: chomelesscouncil@cchealth.org



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Commonly Used Acronyms and Terms

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
BOS	Board of Supervisors (Contra Costa County)
BCSH	California Business Consumer, Services and Housing Agency
CARE	Coordinated Assessment and Resource
CCACS/CCYCS	Contra Costa Adult Continuum of Service/ Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services (H3 programs)
CDBG, CDBG-CV	Community Development Block Grant (federal and state programs) and the federal Community Development Block Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
CESH	California Emergency Solutions and Housing program (state funding)
COH	Council on Homelessness
Continuum of Care (CoC)	Continuum of Care approach to assistance to the homeless. Federal grant program promoting and funding permanent solutions to homelessness.
Con Plan	Consolidated Plan, a locally developed plan for housing assistance and urban development under CDBG.
CES/CE	Coordinated Entry
CNWS	Concord Naval Weapons Station
CORE	Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement program
COVID-19	Coronavirus
DCD	Contra Costa Department of Conservation and Development
DOC	Department Operations Center
CDSS	California Department of Social Services
EHSD	(Contra Costa County) Employment and Human Services Division
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ESG and ESG- CV	Emergency Solutions Grant (federal and state program) and the federal Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
FMR	Fair Market Rent (maximum rent for Section 8 rental assistance/CoC grants)
HCD	Housing and Community Development (State office)
HCFC	Housing Coordinating and Financing Council (state governing board under BCSH)
HEAP	Homeless Emergency Aid Program (state funding)
HEARTH	Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009
HHAP	Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (state funding);
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships (CPD program)
Homekey	California funding to support development of interim and permanent housing
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (federal)
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act



Contra Costa Continuum of Care

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NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
PHA	Public Housing Authority
Project Roomkey	COVID-related State funding program to support de-congregating homeless shelters using hotels/motels.
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
PUI	Persons Under Investigation
RFP/RFQ/LOI	Request for Proposal/Request for Qualifications/Letter of Intent related to funding opportunities
RRH	Rapid Rehousing
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 16-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

Contra Costa County COVID-19 Resources:

Please see below for additional resources on COVID-19.

Health Services COVID Data Dashboard- <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/dashboard>

Health Services Homeless Specific Data Dashboard- <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/homeless-dashboard>

Health Services COVID Updates- <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/health-services-updates>

Health Services Homeless-Specific COVID Resources -<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-the-homeless>



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE

September 16, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

PATH Innovations Committee is comprised of a diverse group of community stakeholders and CoC partners who commit to leading, monitoring, implementing, and assigning priorities to reduce unsheltered homelessness by 30% in year one.

INTRODUCTIONS

PATH Innovations Committee Members

H3 Staff

Community Solutions

Homebase

Focus Strategies

Stakeholders

REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

ACTION ITEMS

- Review and approve minutes from the June 16, 2022 & August 18, 2022 PATH Innovations Committee meetings.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

Open period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

APPROVED PRIORITIES

Build and strengthen the community networks around:

- **Prevention/Diversion:** assistance for community members at imminent risk of homelessness (within two weeks)
- **Rapid Exit:** assistance for people experiencing literal homelessness with an identified housing solution

Both bodies of work will focus on understanding the "why," incorporate evidence of what works, and foreground communication and training

RECAP OF JULY COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Prevention/Diversion and Rapid Exit Program Models

- Similar services but different target populations (imminent risk of homelessness versus literal homelessness)

Unsheltered Data Dashboard

- ↓ Decrease in exits from unsheltered to sheltered
- ↓ Large decrease in total unsheltered at end of quarter
- ↑ Large increase in exits from unsheltered to PH
- ↓ Decrease in new to unsheltered

RECAP OF AUGUST COMMITTEE MEETING

Shared opportunities for improving Prevention/Diversion and Rapid Exit:

- Expand services available in **East County**
- Increase **landlord engagement**
- Improve **messaging** about available services
- Increase **flexible funding**
- Increase **staffing**
- Improve the **referral process** with more training
- **Equitable** resource distribution and access to services
- **Change management**—monitor how changes affect programs

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Jamie Schechter, H3

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING PREVENTION/ DIVERSION AND RAPID EXIT

1. Funding
2. Tool and Process Strategies
3. Outreach and Messaging

STRATEGY 1: FUNDING

Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

- Funding competition for new projects to reduce unsheltered homelessness

Measure X

- Flexible funding; opportunity to engage organizations not currently participating in CoC

Dashboard Metrics

Long-term impact on:

- HH experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- HH from unsheltered to permanent housing
- HH from unsheltered to shelter

Process Measures

- Did the CoC apply for Special NOFO?
- Did Committee members participate in Measure X community input process?

STRATEGY 1: FUNDING

Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

- Funding competition for new projects to reduce unsheltered homelessness
- Contra Costa is eligible to apply for a three-year maximum of \$5,368,828
- Project applications due to H3 on 9/20/2022
→ Report back to PATH in November 2022 meeting

STRATEGY 1: FUNDING

Measure X

- 20-year ½ cent sales tax, which will provide \$10M in FY23 and then \$12M annually
- Flexible funding; opportunity to engage organizations not currently participating in CoC
- Community input process mid-September through October to inform RFP in December
 - Report back to PATH in January 2023 meeting

STRATEGY 2: TOOLS AND PROCESSES

Referral Checklist

- Develop brief checklist to improve quality and consistency of referrals to Prevention/Diversion and Rapid Exit

Address the Referral Bottleneck

- Investigate causes of referral problems and identify potential solutions

Dashboard Metrics

- HH experiencing unsheltered homelessness for first time
- HH from unsheltered to permanent housing
- HH from shelter to permanent housing

Process Measures

- Did we complete PDSAs?
- Did we scale the process change to the whole system?

STRATEGY 2: TOOLS AND PROCESSES

Referral Checklist

- Develop brief checklist to improve quality and consistency of referrals to Prevention/Diversion and Rapid Exit
- Committee supports PDSA cycle (small tests of change)
 - Status update to PATH in October 2022 meeting
- Starting point for testing bottleneck hypothesis (below)

STRATEGY 2: TOOLS AND PROCESSES

Address the Referral Bottleneck

- Investigate causes of referral problems and identify potential solutions
- Review HMIS data on referral patterns and denials
- Engage Hume Center/Hope Solutions to understand referral issues
- Exploratory meeting with 211 (key partner) to understand capacity and training needs

STRATEGY 3: OUTREACH AND MESSAGING

Increase Messaging to the Community

- Set goal for reaching out to new partners

Landlord Engagement

- Explore models of engagement
- Assess current state of how providers engage landlords

Dashboard Metrics

Long-term impact on:

- HH from unsheltered to permanent housing
- HH from unsheltered to shelter

Process Measures

- How many new partners were engaged?
- Did we assess current state of landlord engagement?
- Did providers apply for funding for landlord engagement?

STRATEGY 3: OUTREACH AND MESSAGING

Increase Messaging to the Community

- Set goal for reaching out to new partners
- Create community outreach calendar for improved transparency
 - Opportunity for feedback: who are we missing? Where else should we outreach?
- Committee supports PDSA cycle (small tests of change)
 - Status update to PATH in December 2022 meeting

STRATEGY 3: OUTREACH AND MESSAGING

Landlord Engagement

- Explore models of engagement
- Assess current state of how providers engage landlords
- Recruit providers for funding opportunities (Special NOFO, Measure X)

PLAN-DO-
STUDY-ACT
(PDSA)

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

INTRODUCTION TO PDSA CYCLES

What is PDSA?

Iterative method for continually improving processes

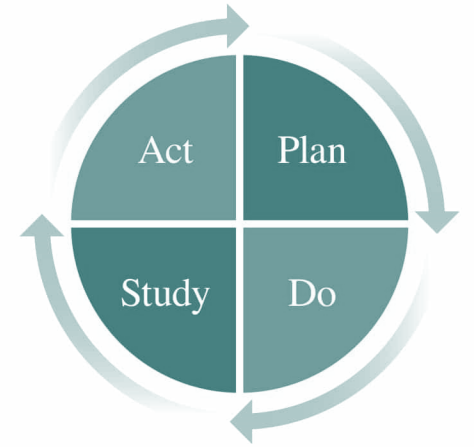
Plan – What change will we test? What do we think will happen?

Do – Carry out the test on a small scale; document what happens

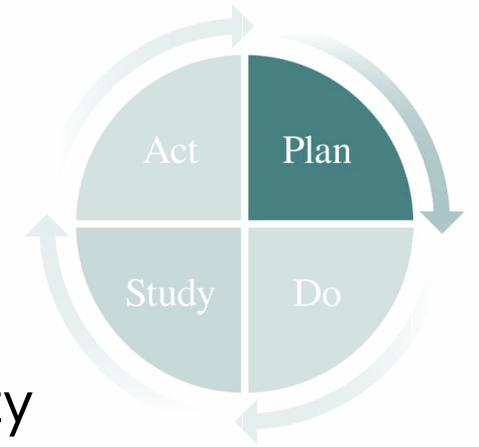
Study – Analyze the results of the test; compare to the hypothesis

Act – Refine the change based on what we learned

Repeat!



PLAN: REFERRAL CHECKLIST



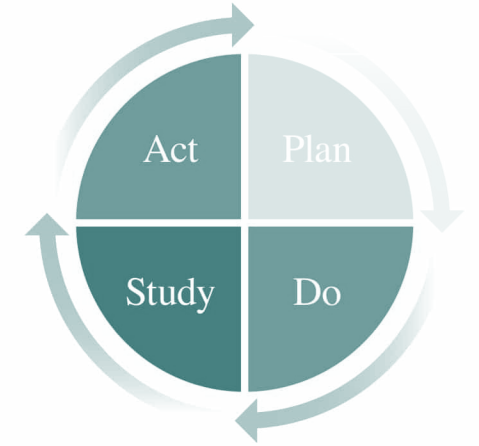
Change to Test:

- Develop brief checklist of referral requirements to improve quality and consistency of referrals
- Ask one referral partner to pilot the checklist for two weeks

Discussion:

- What is our prediction?
- What questions are we trying to answer?
- How will we know whether the test was successful?

NEXT STEPS: REFERRAL CHECKLIST



Do:

- H3 and providers create Checklist v.1
- H3 and providers identify partner for pilot test
- Test the checklist!

Study:

- How do the results compare to the prediction?
- What did we learn from the test?

Act:

- Identify next steps based on learnings

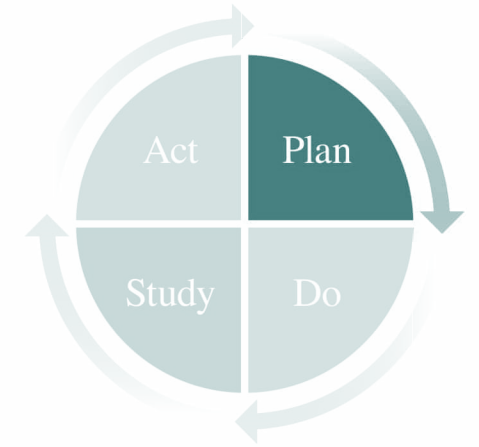
PLAN: OUTREACH CALENDAR

Change to Test:

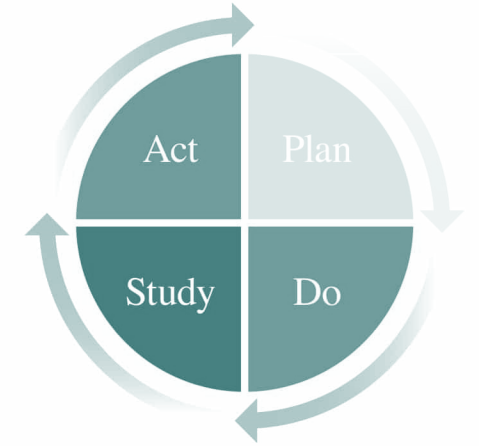
- Create public calendar with all community outreach events
- Gather input to help identify missing events and potential partners
- Establish goal for engaging new partners

Discussion:

- What is our prediction?
- What questions are we trying to answer?
- How will we know whether the test was successful?



NEXT STEPS: OUTREACH CALENDAR



Do:

- H3 creates calendar
- Committee helps identify missing events and potential partners
- H3 engages with identified partners

Study:

- How do the results compare to the prediction?
- What did we learn from the test?

Act:

- Identify next steps based on learnings

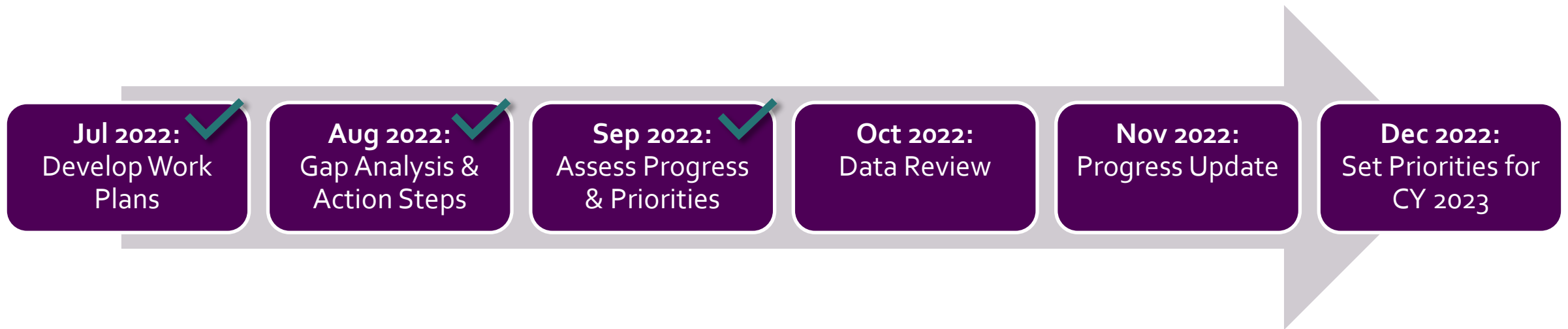
NEXT STEPS

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

ROADMAP THROUGH DECEMBER 2022

By December 2022, the PATH Innovations Committee will:

- Develop work plans for prioritized bodies of work
- Assess progress of initiatives
- Review unsheltered metrics quarterly
- Review priorities in September 2022 (mid-point review)
- Set priorities for Calendar Year 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **PATH Innovations Committee Meetings**
 - 3rd Thursday of each month, 3:00-5:00
 - October 20
 - November 17
 - December 15



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Date: Thursday, June 16, 2022, 3 pm – 5 pm

Recording of Discussion:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zrJhC7eMzLt0qnzGSrpOhwcFurFFdBoe9NL0lQTPw4IWMRiYB_8XKfalOn4bxyo1.60ap1mfB6vNqQuH0

Passcode: %ORTAWb3

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Introductions 	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and Approval of Minutes 	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Comment - Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda. 	- <i>Members of the public</i>
3:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritizing Work through December 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review proposal from May 2022 meeting (ACTION ITEM): Vote on priorities through December 2022 	- <i>Jamie Schecter, H3</i> - <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
3:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the Why: Causes of Homelessness 	- <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i>
4:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Steps 	- <i>All</i>
4:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcements 	- <i>All</i>

Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members in Attendance: Jo Bruno, Juno Hedrick, Margaret Schiltz, Pat Mims, Tony Ucciferri, Wayne Earl

Staff and Consultants: Christy Saxton (H3), Jamie Schecter (H3), Dana Ewing (H3), Kimberly Thai (H3), Shelby Ferguson (H3), Hana Gossett (Focus Strategies), Tracy Bennett (Focus Strategies), Matt Mitchell (Focus Strategies), Diego De La Peza (Focus Strategies) Nate French (Community Solutions), Michele Byrnes (Homebase)

Review and Approval of Minutes

Seeking approval of the minutes from March 17th, 2022, April 29th, 2022, and May 19, 2022 .

Jo Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes for March 17th, 2022.

Tony Ucciferri seconded that motion.



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Jill Ray advised that all prior meeting minutes could be approved in one motion if there were no objections.

Jo Bruno amended her motion to approve the meeting minutes for March 17th, 2022, April 29th, 2022 and May 19, 2022.

Tony Ucciferri seconded that motion.

There was no discussion regarding prior meeting minutes.

A vote was held and the motion passed with all committee members in favor of approving the prior meeting's minutes.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Prioritizing Work through December 2022

In the May Committee meeting, a motion was brought forth to vote on the priorities for the committee from July 2022 to December 2022. A vote was not held due to a discussion about the definition and targeted population of rapid exit.

H3 wanted to prepare for a vote by delineating what the current proposal is, with the understanding that the decisions made today have the flexibility to change in the future if priorities change. The proposed timeline is to develop a work plan by July, have a mid-point review in September, and assess committee progress in December.

Proposed Bodies of Work

Jamie Schechter reviewed the proposed priorities from the May meeting and presented the proposed framework moving forward. Jamie noted the importance of thinking about what is within the scope of the PATH Innovations committee. She mentioned that the committee has big goals, which require big solutions, so it is important to think about the scale of the projects brought forth and what those mean to the group.

Jamie reminded the committee that the priorities previously discussed were to focus on Prevention and Rapid Exits. The proposal is that both bodies of work focus on understanding the "why," researching and incorporating evidence that works, and focus on communication and training around these interventions. There is an added need to focus on diversion and getting people access to housing as soon as they come in for services.

Jamie clarified a question from the May committee meeting and defined rapid exit as targeting people who are literally homeless and have a housing solution. Rapid exit primarily, although not exclusively, focuses on people who are early in experiencing homelessness.



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Tony Ucciferri asked whether the priorities mentioned in the proposed work were in line with HUD's priorities. Jamie Schecter responded that they were in line with HUD's priorities of serving people who are within their first two weeks of experiencing homelessness.

Jamie continued her presentation and reiterated the focus of understanding why homelessness happens, incorporating evidence that works, and targeting communication and training around Prevention and Rapid Exit.

Jamie mentioned that these priorities are projects the committee can take on, but it is important to think about how this work is going to make a change and lead to impactful work from the committee. Jamie asked if there were any questions or points of discussion the group wanted to bring forth before voting in priorities.

Vote on Priorities

Matt asked whether any Committee member would like to make a motion about proposed priorities.

Wayne Earl wanted to ensure that committee members who had questions regarding rapid exit in the May meeting had a clear understanding of rapid exit.

Jo Bruno mentioned that the conversation around clarifying rapid exit had included committee members who were not present in today's meeting and wondered if we could trust that their concerns had been clarified.

Jamie Schecter acknowledged that not all committee members were present, but that the committee had a quorum to vote today and wondered whether people felt comfortable moving forward with the vote.

Matt stated that the priorities are a starting point to get the committee moving in the right direction and that a check in is scheduled for September to ensure that the priorities still align with the work of the committee.

Margaret Schiltz said she was okay with voting.

Matt asked again if any member would like to make a motion about the proposed priorities.

Tony Ucciferri made a motion to approve to committee priorities and scope of work.

Margaret Schiltz seconded that motion.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with all committee members voting in favor of the motion.



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Developing Workplans

Matt Mitchell discussed the next steps toward developing the workplans. Since committee members all come with diverse backgrounds and understanding of prevention and rapid exit, H3 suggested the committee work begins with an initial learning phase so everyone has a firm grounding on the subjects. From there, the committee will conduct a gap analysis to identify opportunities for improvement. Once those opportunities are identified the committee can develop concrete action steps or tests of change.

Jo Bruno stated that she liked the idea of having one-pagers or video links that could be shared with their networks, primarily with many people communicating via zoom. She wondered if there was a method to track where views of training materials are coming from and see whose network is accessing the training videos.

Dana Ewing commented that she liked Jo's idea as a process measurement and that her team will brainstorm on ways to do that. She also mentioned that many people experiencing homelessness' first point of contact is with the county's access points such as 211 and CORE, so she wondered if focusing the education piece on access point services would be beneficial.

Matt Mitchell mentioned that the proposed gap analysis would help focus the committee's efforts when deciding the interventions.

Wayne Earl stated that coordinated entry is also the entry points for health, so it is important to have enough case workers and resources for training to be effectively implemented.

Working Together

Jamie Schecter shared she loved the group's energy and how the committee was responding to the examples provided. Jamie wanted to take a step back and focus on the work plan. She asked if the committee members felt that the plan to start with a learning phase, then move on to a gap analysis, and then develop action steps worked for the committee.

Jo Bruno mentioned she was unclear about what that looked like.

Matt Mitchell delineated what the future meetings could look like, consisting of a learning session, breakout rooms, and debriefing of plans as a full group.

Jill Ray stated that she believed that breakout rooms during a committee meeting were not compliant with the Brown Act.

Matt Mitchell suggested that if breakout rooms were not possible, the committee could implement a workgroup format and asked the committee for input. Jo Bruno, Margaret Schlitz, and Juno Hedrick gave thumbs up in the Zoom platform.

Matt asked how the committee felt about an in-person retreat in the future to bring the committee together. Wayne Earl and Margaret Schlitz agreed with the idea. Jo Bruno also agreed but wondered what the content of the retreat would be. Matt Mitchell explained that the retreat was an idea to bring together the committee and include other people with lived experiences or frontline workers to help



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drive some of the work. Jo Bruno agreed with that idea but mentioned there should be a back up plan in the case the in-person meeting cannot happen. Matt commented that the committee had a good starting point to move forward and asked if there were any other discussion points before moving on with the agenda. Jo Bruno suggested that there should be a consideration that any trainings provided to the committee be resources given that committee members could view on their own time.

Understanding the Why: Causes of Homelessness

Dana Ewing presented on why people become homeless. The purpose of her presentation was to look at the big picture by exploring what the research says about experiencing homelessness and adding some county data to provide context. She hoped the presentation would be helpful and ignite conversation.

Dana's presentation focused on highlighting what data shows to be the top reasons why people become homeless: (1) housing shortage – the lack of affordable housing, (2) low income – income remaining very low as housing cost increases, (3) health conditions – people experiencing homelessness are more likely to have mental, chronic, or physical health conditions, and (4) history of trauma – people experiencing homelessness are more likely to have experienced more adverse childhood experiences than the general population.

Dana discussed the limitations of how data is collected in the field, which leads to a lot of missing data. She also discussed the discrepancies between the conditions that lead to an experience of homelessness and what the data shows. Dana mentioned that open ended questions tend to get more at the narrative and societal context for why someone might be experiencing homelessness.

Dana asked the committee members what their experiences were on the causes of homelessness as professionals in the field.

Wayne Earl began the discussion by noting that asking questions from the VI-SPDAT are difficult without building rapport, and that in his experience when people answer the questions, he sees discrepancies in their responses and their actual experiences. He mentioned he sees a lot of pain and difficulty in the people he serves.

Margaret Schiltz mentioned that from her experience running an agency focused on people experiencing severe mental health problems, she sees that a lot of the causes match the ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences). Jo Bruno expressed that she was very glad that the presentation included the ACEs, as it helps clarify the work that she is trying to implement in outreach. She mentioned the presentation was helpful in changes she is working on implementing.

Pat Mims shared he also liked the inclusion of ACEs in the presentation and questions how comfortable people feel when they are asked difficult and traumatic questions. From his experience, people completing assessments do not always feel comfortable responding honestly until they feel safe.

Wayne shared that his experience running a faith-based organization is different that how the CoC operates and the differences between a faith-based model and housing first. He commented that it is not until relationships are built that data can reflect what is happening with people experiencing homelessness.



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Jo Bruno suggested brainstorming ways to provide this information to providers to help guide them as the first point of contact with someone who is unhoused.

Dana summarized that she kept hearing two points: (1) the need for empathy in services which is sometimes missing and (2) people in crisis tend to distrust the system.

Juno questioned how the committee was planning to address this and commented that based on personal experience as a trans person in a shelter, the system was lacking a lot of support for certain groups.

Jamie Schecter mentioned actions taken to move the needle in the right direction, such as trauma informed care and critical time interventions, but acknowledged that these interventions are not happening fast enough.

Matt Mitchell commented that there are opportunities within the committee to think about the networks and resources that are present in the community and do work that will make an impact on unsheltered homelessness.

Wayne Earl mentioned that a big challenge is the lack of housing resources and inability to build more housing which is fundamental to getting people housed and wonders how the committee can meet the goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness with limited physical resources.

Margaret Schiltz responded that focusing on prevention may be a good way to make an impact.

Next Steps

Matt Mitchell reviewed the proposed roadmap for future committee meetings.

Announcements

Jo Bruno announced her success presenting at a state conference on how to use and implement a peer model and how she was one of very few people discussing issues of homelessness.

Jamie Schecter announced that there is an open position with H3 and shared the link to the job description.

Upcoming Meetings

- July 21, 2022 from 3-5 PM
- August 18, 2022 from 3-5 PM
- September 15, 2022 from 3-5 PM



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Additional Attendees

In addition to the facilitators, H3 staff, and Committee members listed, the following people attended the Zoom session:

- Dale Harrington (ACOA and CAB)
- Jill Ray (Office of the Supervisor)



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Date: Thursday, August 18, 2022, 3 pm – 5 pm

Recording of Discussion:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Lq1H1NbVYc0eKLSXyFIQ0XeoqdtjU1ZrOPxOkaJOnb1nA5wJ4HGyyAzcpZTnvuZI.EknOJSKwAB4WVxe6>

Passcode: UAd&OC1m

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment - Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda. 	- <i>Members of the public</i>
3:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Prevention and Rapid Exit Program Models 	- <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i> - <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i>
3:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Prevention Current State • Discussion: Problem Identification and Solutions 	- <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i> - <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i> - <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
3:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Rapid Exit Current State • Discussion: Problem Identification and Solutions 	- <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i> - <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i> - <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
4:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Shared Improvement Opportunities for Prevention and Rapid Exit 	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
4:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps 	- <i>All</i>
4:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcements 	- <i>All</i>

Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members in Attendance: Deanne Pearn, Jo Bruno, Juno Hedrick, Margaret Schiltz, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Tony Ucciferri, Wayne Earl

Staff and Consultants: Jamie Schechter (H3), Dana Ewing (H3), Shelby Ferguson (H3), Jamie Klinger (H3), Hana Gossett (Focus Strategies), Matt Mitchell (Focus Strategies), Diego De La Peza (Focus Strategies), Michele Byrne (Homebase), Nate French (Community Solutions)



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Review and Approval of Minutes

Seeking approval of the minutes from the June 16, 2022 and July 21, 2022 PATH meetings. Teri House made a motion to approve the minutes. Shawn Ray seconded that motion.

Wayne Earl noted that the June meeting minutes had not been included in the August meeting packet. Jill Ray confirmed that a vote should not be held on materials not included in the meeting packet, even if previously posted.

Teri House amended her motion to approve only the July meeting minutes. Shawn Ray seconded that motion.

A vote was held and the motion passed with six committee members in favor of approving July's meeting minutes and two abstaining from the vote.

Approval of the June meeting minutes was postponed until the September meeting.

Public Comment - Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.

No Public Comments

Meeting Goal

Matt Mitchell reviewed the agenda and explained that the goal of the meeting was to provide more context into the current state of Prevention and Rapid Exit and brainstorm potential action items or areas for improvement for the two programs.

Prevention & Rapid Exit Overview

Shelby Ferguson presented an overview of the Prevention and Rapid Exit program models. She explained the target population of Prevention were people at risk of becoming homeless in the next two weeks, while Rapid Exit targets those who are already in the homelessness response system and have identified a potential housing solution. Both interventions focus on providing one-time financial assistance and on-going case management to help maintain or find stable housing. The interventions have different referral sources, with Prevention referrals coming from 211 while Rapid Exit referrals coming from CORE or other agencies providing case management.



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Prevention

Dana Ewing presented 2021 data for participants served through Prevention and clarified questions from the Committee about who was included in the numbers. Answering Wayne Earl's question about length of time between referral and prevention services, Bertha Lopez explained that their program staff aim to contact referred participants before 48 hours after the referral is made.

Bertha Lopez provided an overview of the trajectory of participants' Prevention services and their approach to finding the best solution. She mentioned staff began by trying to discuss all possible housing solutions with participants and understanding their needs to refer or connect them with other resources.

Discussion: Prevention

A discussion was held to help clarify Prevention services and begin brainstorming possible areas of improvement for the program. The Committee asked questions around the availability of recurring services, referrals to other resources, and what is considered a successful outcome of the program.

Shawn Ray was interested in exploring why the racial composition of participants accessing Prevention services does not match with the racial composition of unsheltered individuals. He wondered if there needs to be targeted messaging to certain populations about Prevention services.

Wayne Earl was interested in seeing more recent data on Prevention to help assess the current situation. Dana Ewing mentioned that data could be explored monthly.

Prevention: Opportunities and Potential Action Items

Matt Mitchell transitioned the discussion into a conversation about potential areas of opportunity to improve Prevention services. He shared a digital white board to help guide and document the ideas from Committee members and noted points that had been previously raised in the discussion.

At the request of Wayne Earl, Samantha Quinn provided some insight as to what the challenges are for direct service providers, highlighting funding constraints and referral difficulties. Bertha noted that the challenge of obtaining proper documentation delays the process of participants obtaining stable housing.

Jo Bruno raised some of her concerns with the homelessness response system. As a person with lived expertise of homelessness, she sees how difficult it is to navigate the system and find landlords who are willing to work with housing services and be flexible to help people obtain housing.

Committee members and Hume Center staff discussed the difficulties of finding available housing and working with landlords/property management companies. Concerns were raised about how strict criteria for who can receive Prevention services makes it difficult to serve more people through those services. Bertha explained that their agency is seeing people who need financial help for rent subsidy, as



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well as for rent backlog. Sometimes the amount of rent backlog is so high that it falls outside the range that Prevention services can provide.

Throughout the discussion, the Committee identified the following as areas of opportunity to improve Prevention services:

- Continuous staff training on referrals and triage
- Increased Collaboration between referral partners and Prevention staff
- Find ways to assist earlier to avoid crisis
- Furthering partnerships with eviction prevention programs
- Connect to more resources in East County
- Improve outreach and messaging around Prevention services
- Address disparities in back debt

Rapid Exit

Samantha Quinn provided an overview of Rapid Exit and explained that participants referred to Rapid Exit already have already identified solutions for stable housing with their case managers. The Committee discussed the importance of ensuring the identified solutions are a safe place for participants.

Dana Ewing presented data on 2021 Rapid Exit participants and outcomes. The Committee discussed interpreting exits to literal homelessness from Rapid Exit and the differences between exits from Rapid Exit and exits from the homelessness system.

Discussion: Rapid Exit

Rapid Exit provider staff mentioned that a lack of resources was a challenge, similar to Prevention services. They explained that it was easier to connect people to Rapid Exit, when compared to Prevention, because Rapid Exit serves people already connected to the homelessness response system. The Committee discussed the additional resources that Rapid Exit participants are connected too and inquired about referral partners who do a good job referring qualifying participants to Rapid Exit.

Teri House and Jo Bruno mentioned the need for increased services in East County and brainstormed potential solutions for increasing funding and partnering in the area.

Rapid Exit: Opportunities and Potential Action Items

The Committee identified the following as following as areas of opportunity to improve Rapid Exit services:

- Harm reduction and increasing levels of security



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- Increase training of law enforcement on resources for those living in their vehicle
- Increase education on how to navigate through the system
- Learn from staff who make successful referrals
- Create templates or checklists for referral partners
- Expand staffing, resources, and referral partners
- Prioritize funding and services in East County

Shared Improvement Opportunities

The Committee discussed the overlap in improvement opportunities between Prevention and Rapid Exit and how many of the interventions mentioned above can apply to both programs.

Announcements

Jamie Schecter announced a CoC Training happening Monday August 21, 2022 around funding and encouraged all to attend.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The September to be rescheduled
- October 20, 2022 from 3-5
- November 17, 2022 from 3-5 PM

Additional Attendees

In addition to the facilitators, H3 staff, and Committee members listed, the following people attended the Zoom session:

- Bertha Lopez (Hume Center)
- Samantha Quinn (Hume Center)
- Jill Ray (Office of Supervisors)
- Carl Mason