



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

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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.



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

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.



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

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



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

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.



PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

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) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE

June 16, 2022, 3:00 – 5:00

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 March 17, 2022 PATH Innovations Committee meeting.
- Review and approve minutes from the April 21, 2022 PATH Innovations Committee meeting.
- Review and approve minutes from the May 19, 2022 PATH Innovations Committee meeting.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

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

PROPOSED
PRIORITIES THROUGH
DECEMBER 2022

Jamie Schechter, H3

PREPARING FOR A VOTE

- This is our **best thinking right now** on how to reduce unsheltered homelessness and improve CES
- Start somewhere, build momentum, and learn from our progress

Timeline

- Develop work plans in July 2022
- Mid-point review in September 2022
- Assess progress in December 2022

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

Build and strengthen the community networks around:

- **Prevention:** 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

THE WORK AHEAD

- **Understand the “why”**
 - Examine existing data on people accessing prevention and rapid exit to better understand needs
 - Compare data across different populations to see where greatest inequities exist
- **Incorporate evidence of what works**
 - Investigate local and national leading practices and identify new tools and strategies
 - Examine the process for accessing prevention and rapid exit to identify areas of improvement
- **Communication and training**
 - Create plan to share information on prevention and rapid exit with new communities
 - Identify training needs for prevention and rapid exit referral partners and providers and create a training plan to address these needs

ACTION ITEM

- Approve PATH Innovations Committee's priorities through December 2022.



DEVELOPING THE WORK PLANS

- **Initial Learning:** Create shared understanding of the interventions
- **Gap Analysis:** Identify opportunities for improvement
- **Action Steps:** Develop 3 to 5 concrete actions steps/tests of change

Action Step Example:

- **Hypothesis:** We can broaden the number of organizations that refer to Prevention services by 50% in 3 months by sharing referral information with community partners using existing meetings.
- **Plan:** Create slide deck and one-page handout about making referrals to Prevention; each workgroup member shares slide deck/referral information in at least two existing meetings.
- **Test:** Assess the number of added organizations over a 3-month period.

WORKING TOGETHER

- July Meeting
 - Initial learning as a full group
- Meetings from August onward
 - Breakout rooms for Prevention and Rapid Exit work plans
 - Debrief learnings and plans as a full group
- In-person retreat later in the year?

UNDERSTANDING THE "WHY": CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Dana Ewing, H3

CIRCLING BACK TO “WHY DO PEOPLE BECOME HOMELESS?”

Let's take a look :



Meta analyses



National data



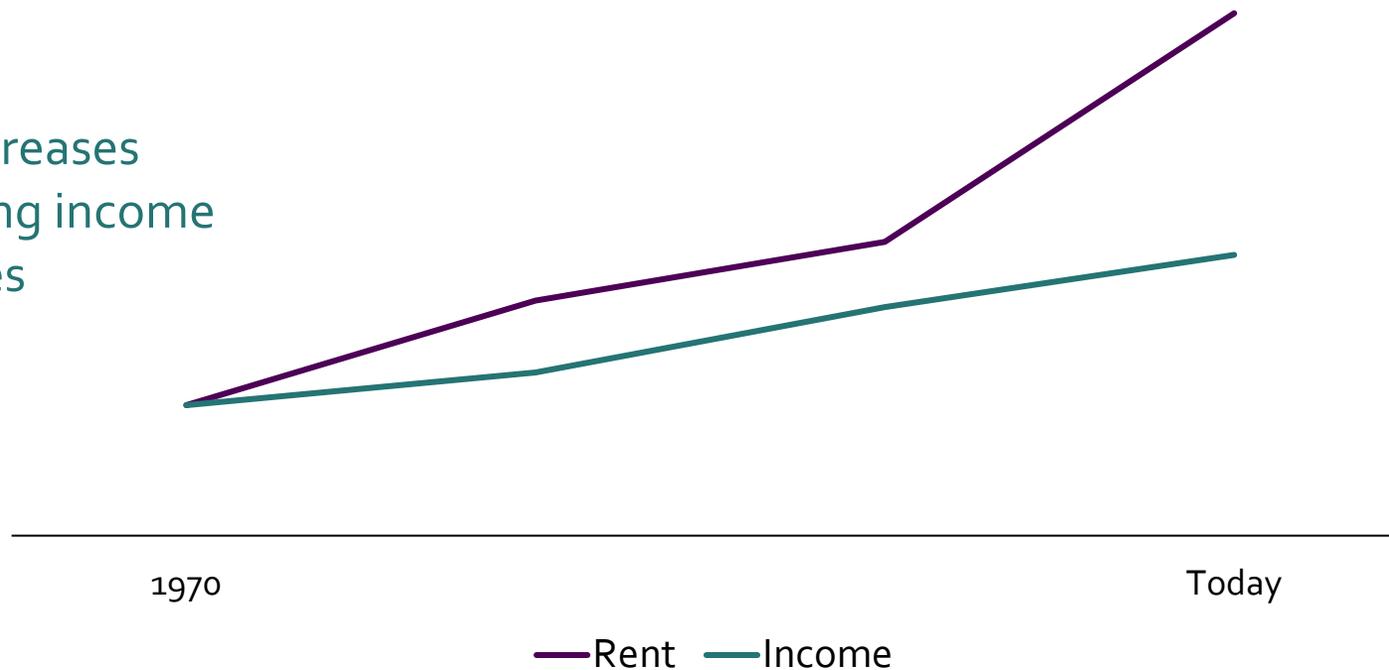
Contra Costa County data

1. HOUSING SHORTAGE

National Housing Crisis:

- ↓ housing availability, ↑ demand, ↑ rent

Rent increases
outpacing income
increases



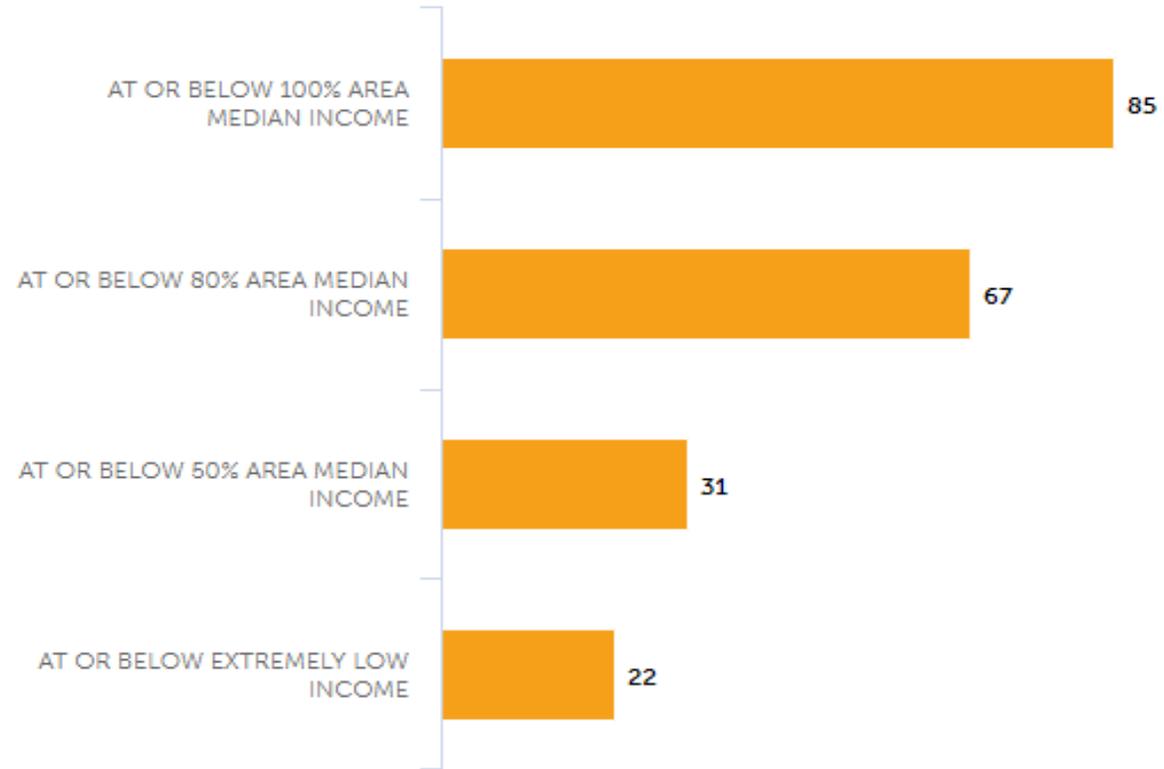
1. HOUSING SHORTAGE

National Low Income
Housing Coalition,
California Data

Surplus (Deficit) of Affordable and Available Rental Units

AT OR BELOW EXTREMELY LOW INCOME	-1,003,595
AT OR BELOW 50% AMI	-1,438,305

Affordable and Available Homes per 100 Renter Households



1. HOUSING SHORTAGE

Shortage of housing opportunities in the CoC

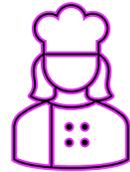
Number of households housed in **Rapid Rehousing** during 2021: 138

Number of households housed in **Permanent Supportive Housing** in 2021: 78

2. LOW INCOME

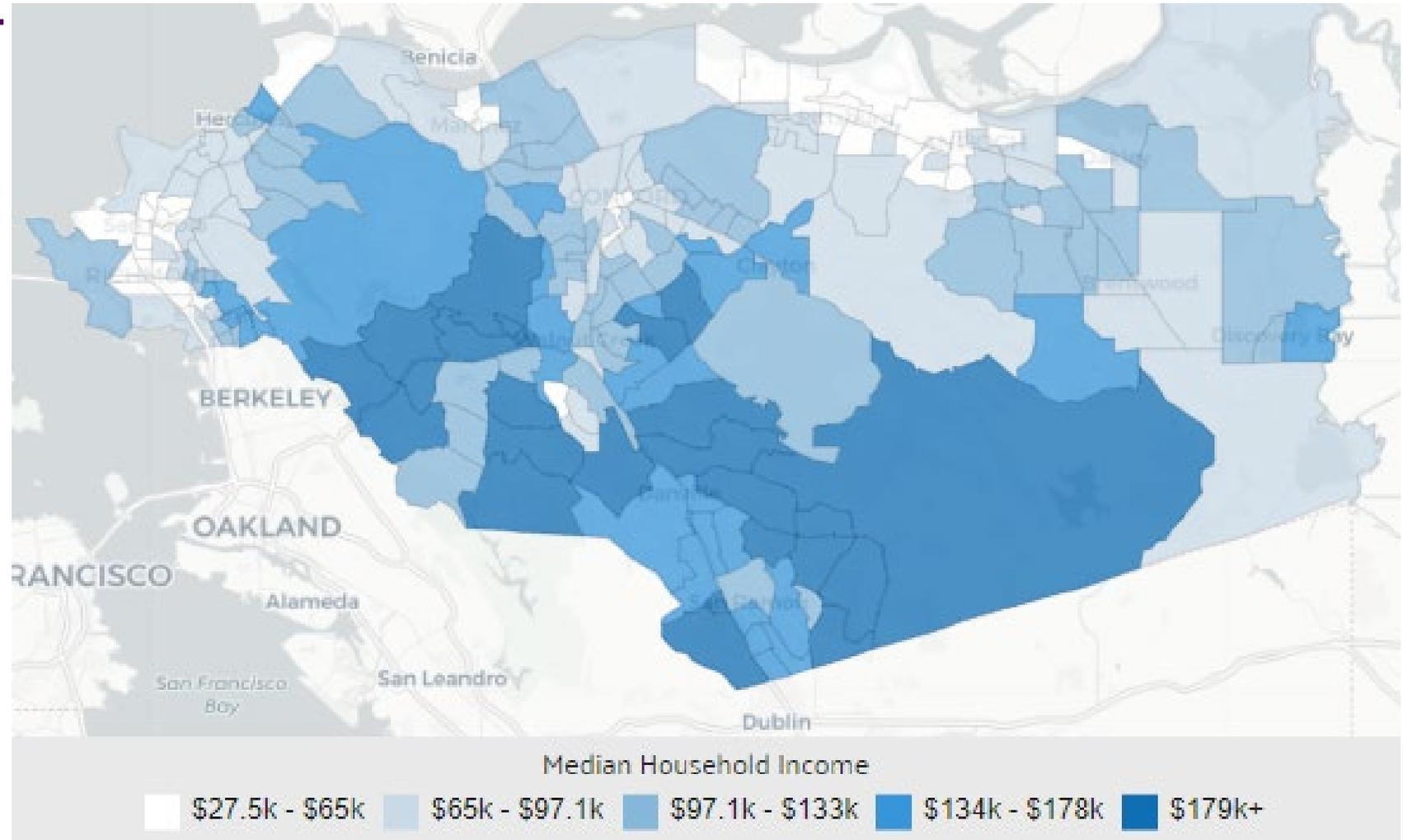
Unemployment or underemployment

- age
- disability
- poor physical health
- mental health
- limited education
- criminal record
- transportation issues



2. LOW INCOME

Contra Costa County
Census Data



3. HEALTH CONDITIONS

Physical and behavioral health

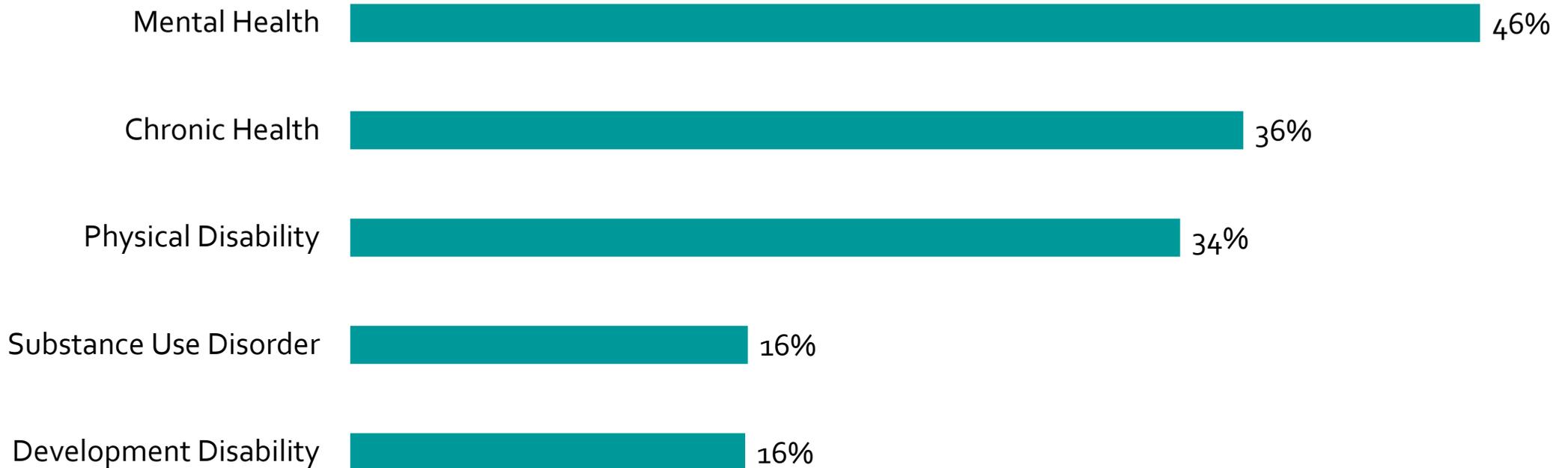
- 2x as likely to have a disabling condition
- 3x as likely to have a substance abuse disorder
- 3x as likely to have diabetes, heart disease, chronic health condition
- 6x as likely to have HIV/AIDS

Comorbidity—people experiencing homelessness likely to have both physical and mental health conditions

3. HEALTH CONDITIONS

Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of people in the CoC had a disabling condition

Percent of Adults with Self-Reported Disabling Conditions



4. HISTORY OF TRAUMA

Adverse Childhood Affects (ACES)

Family-level ACES*	Community-level ACES**
Emotional abuse	Economic hardship
Physical abuse	Community violence
Sexual abuse	Bullying
Emotional neglect	Foster care
Physical neglect	Discrimination (e.g. racism, homophobia, etc.)
Household domestic violence	
Household mental illness	
Household substance use	
Parental separation or divorce	
Having a parent or family member incarcerated	

*Family-level ACEs: These are the ACEs from the 1998 Kaiser Permanente study that are sometimes referred to as conventional, original or traditional ACEs. These ACEs are experienced within the home or family.

** Community-level ACEs: These are adversities experienced outside the home. They often refer to structural and social adversities.

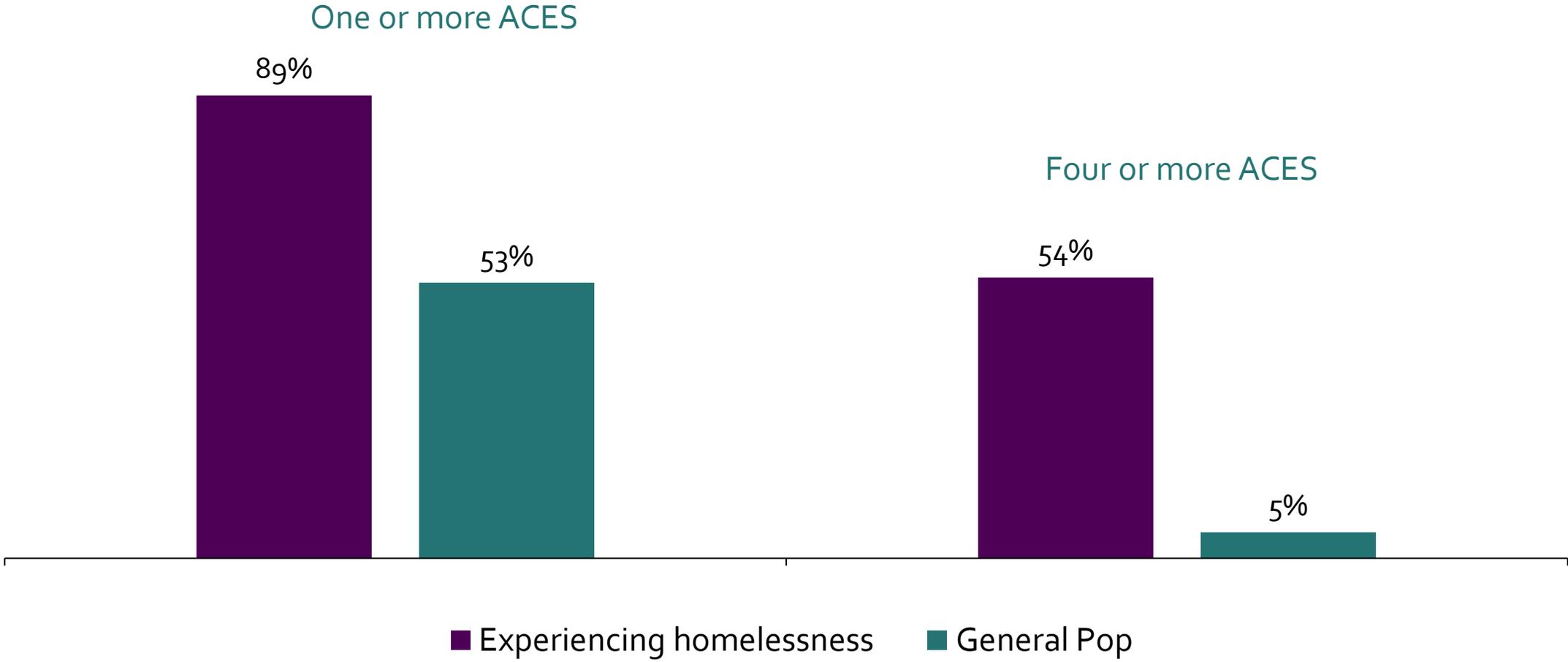
4. HISTORY OF TRAUMA

Nearly 80% of mothers experiencing homelessness had significant histories of childhood trauma

Having 4 or more ACEs increased likelihood of:

- Anxiety, depression
- Development delays
- School non-completion
- Unemployment
- Poor health (diabetes, substance use disorders, cancer, cardiovascular disease)

4. HISTORY OF TRAUMA

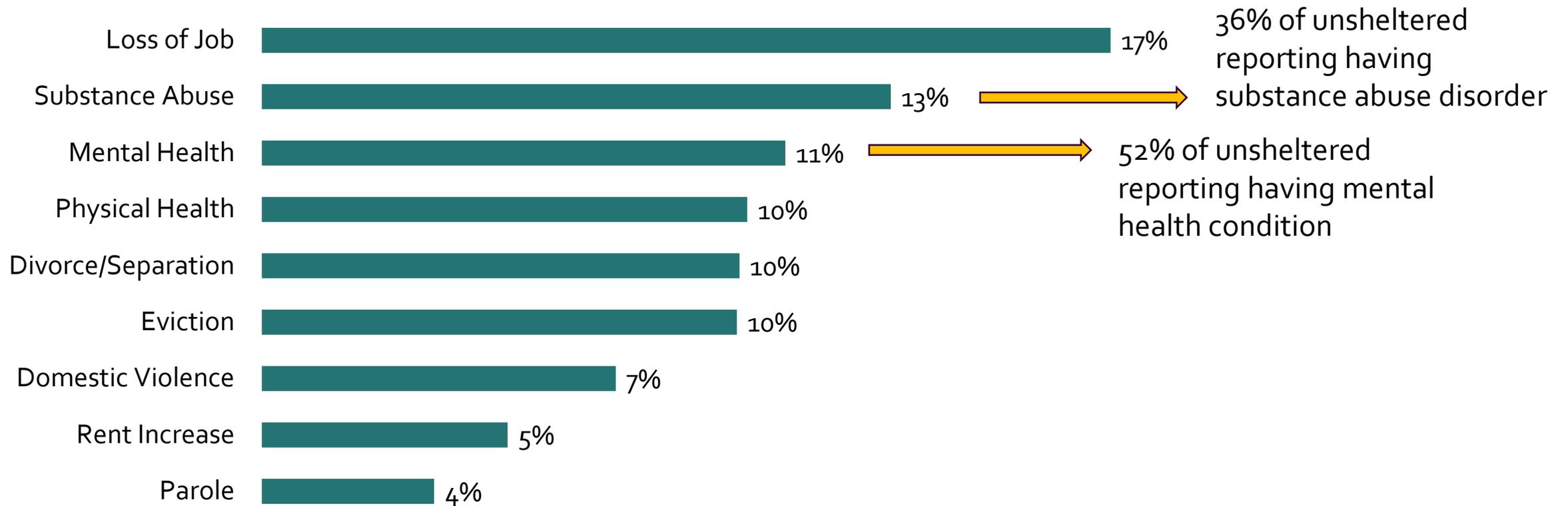


HMIS DATA

- Cause of homelessness collected upon enrollment
- Lots of missing data
- Categories do not get at the causes identified in the research
- Discrepancies in responses compared to self-report conditions

HMIS DATA

Cause of Homelessness, Crisis Response, 2021



HMIS DATA

Open-ended answer addresses ACES:

Other items listed (open-ended):

- Aged out of foster care
- Death of family member who maintained the housing
- Death of child/loved one
- Prison/jail
- Victim of violent crime/trafficking
- Rental unit unsafe (neighborhood, bug infestation, gas leak, fire)
- Went into recovery or institution

DISCUSSION

What are your experiences as:

- service providers
- people with lived experience
- community members
- political leaders

DISCUSSION

What do we do with this info?

Do we want to know more about our specific community?

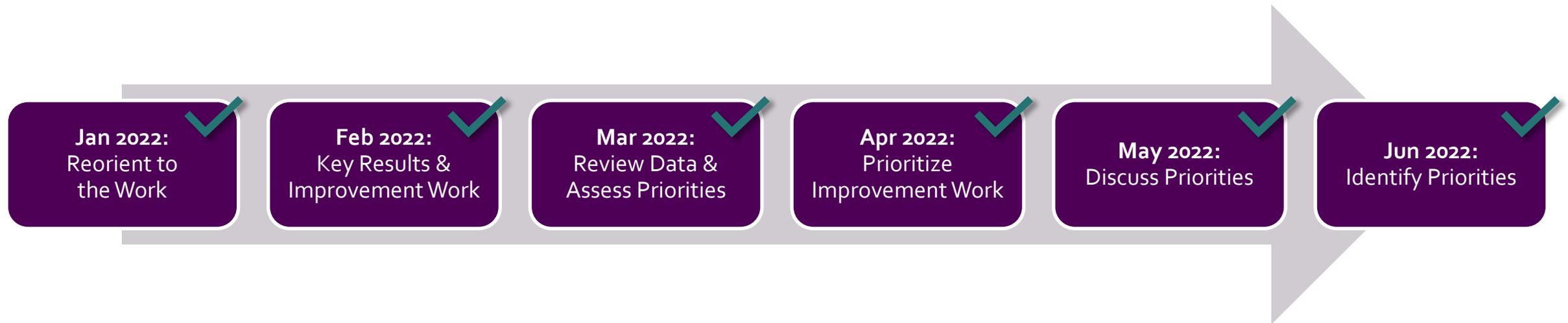
NEXT STEPS

Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies

ROADMAP THROUGH JUNE 2022

By June 2022, the PATH Innovations Committee will:

- Identify key results and improvement work
- Sponsor improvement work on system processes
- Establish quarterly data review process
- Assess the initiative's progress



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
- Update priorities in September 2022 (mid-point review)
- Set priorities for Calendar Year 2023

Jul 2022:
Develop Work
Plans

Aug 2022:
TBD

Sep 2022:
Assess Progress
& Priorities

Oct 2022:
Prioritize Work
for CY 2023

Nov 2022:
TBD

Dec 2022:
Assess Progress
& Next Steps

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **PATH Innovations Committee Meetings**
 - 3rd Thursday of each month, 3:00-5:00
 - July 21
 - August 18
 - September 15
 - **Data Workgroup Meeting**
 - July 6, 2:00-3:00