



**Siskiyou County Advisory Board Meeting**

**September 1, 2021**

**1:30pm – 3:00pm**

**Behavioral Health Services, Red Oak Room, 2060 Campus Drive, Yreka**

**1. Call to Order/ Quorum Established/Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:36pm by Duane Kegg, Chairperson. A quorum was established.

Present: Duane Kegg, Dr. Collard, Brittany Collier, Sara Kleier, Cindy Ward, Trish Barbieri, Susan Cervelli, Rachel Clem, Maddelyn Bryan.

On Zoom: Denise Patterson, Nancy Ogren, Jacqueline Nushi, Kalie Brisbon, Sarah Springfield, Lori Keyser-Boswell, Michelle O’Gorman.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August, Attachment A**

Dr. Collard motioned to approve the minutes from August 4, 2021. Cindy Ward seconded the motion, which the Board approved unanimously.

**3. Public Comments (limited to 3 mins. per comment)**

Kallie Brisbon, Senior Director with United Way provided an update on continuing discussions with the Lead Agency regarding her organization’s role in the Coordinated Entry System (CES). Specifically, they are exploring the possibility of expanding the 211 program’s involvement in the CES. She mentioned having a conversation with Dr. Collard about how this process could work in Siskiyou County. Kallie also reminded service providers to update United Way on new programs so they can offer accurate information to the public. Dr. Collard thanked Kallie Brisbon for attending the meeting and for her continued partnership.

**4. Updates**

**a. Executive Board Update, Attachments B, C, and D—Trish Barbieri**

Trish Barbieri referred members to attachments B and C of the agenda packet. Attachment B provided an overview of the NorCal CoC data on participation fees, grants, and HMIS utilization. Attachment C was a presentation on HMIS statistics, including demographic information at the county level. Trish particularly highlighted two data points: there are 404 Siskiyou County residents currently entered in HMIS, a surprisingly high number; also of note, Siskiyou County has spent \$1,992.51 grant dollars per homeless individual served, a more efficient outcome than Trish had anticipated.

Trish additionally relayed that the CoC Executive Board discussed duties related to membership for the entire CoC. They also discussed three new funding sources, including two new



Emergency Solution Grants available through the CoC and the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Round 3 grant that will require a regional housing plan for all seven counties.

Furthermore, Trish suggested members review attachment D of the agenda packet. This attachment showed the slides from a presentation on the Brown Act. Maddelyn Bryan asked members if she should request that the Lead Agency present on the Brown Act in a future Advisory Board meeting.

## **5. Discussion**

### **a. Maximizing the impact of the Advisory Board—Dr. Collard**

Dr. Collard shared that she spoke with Maddelyn Bryan and Trish Barbieri about how to ensure the Advisory Board is a useful forum for members and services providers. HHSA staff have brought in trainings related to housing and shared information they thought was helpful. However, Dr. Collard queried whether anything else would be helpful for members or would increase engagement with the Board.

Brittany Collier replied that the Office of Education has trouble assisting people to navigate Medi-Cal. Her organization would benefit from more communication on Medi-Cal for homeless youth.

Duane Kegg noted that other cities provide navigation centers. He believes there is a need for a navigation center in Siskiyou County. Dr. Collard's understanding was that Beacon of Hope is working towards that goal. Members expressed interest in the timeline for the Beacon of Hope shelter, particularly whether it will be able to operate in any capacity this winter. Michelle O'Gorman said the timing is difficult to gauge. The shelter still needs significant plumbing work. If it opens this winter, it will not be at the level of a navigation center. Duane stated that, as Mayor of Yreka, he could possibly declare a state-of-emergency in order for the building to open.

Dr. Collard assessed that members would like the Board to help providers better understand where services connect. She invited the Board to share additional ideas of what would be useful.

Cindy Ward replied she would like the Board to explore services for individuals with high barriers to housing. Dr. Collard agreed that this population has been difficult to serve with past programs. However, Maddelyn is actively applying for grants that will allow Health and Human Services more flexibility to serve a diverse range of populations.

Duane suggested the Board develop better public relations and engage public opinion. He also remarked that the Board had more enthusiasm four years ago. The community had a zeal that plateaued.

Jacqueline Nushi shared that she has researched homeless interventions and wonders if any providers are interested in creating a tiny house community. Duane said Yreka City intends for the Urban Campsite project to fulfill that need. He is going to Medford to learn about their



homeless community programs. He does not expect the Urban Campsite to be ready in less than a year. Jacqueline Nushi offered to share about another project example. Dr. Collard communicated that the county has explored tiny-home solutions before. The challenge is to find a service provider for daily operations and to secure ongoing funding. Trish shared that the CalWORKs program included funding for RVs, but with a cap on the price. HHSa purchased six RVs within the allowable price range and they have required significant maintenance. They do not seem intended for the level and frequency of use demanded by the program.

Trish asked if there previously had been some discussion of sending letters to absent Advisory Board members. Dr. Collard offered to have HHSa draft such a letter if that was acceptable to the Chair.

Trish inquired about the status and contributors of the CoC participation fee. She recalled that the County Administrator initially handled it and that each city was supposed to contribute. Duane confirmed that Yreka is still contributing towards the payment of Siskiyou County's participation fee. Dr. Collard offered to follow up on this question with Rachel York.

## **7. New Business**

Duane Kegg conveyed that Yreka hosted another cleaning day last Saturday to prepare the Urban Campsite property for dirt removal. The project is moving forward. Yreka has created a homelessness services set-aside in the city budget.

Maddelyn Bryan informed the Board that the CoC released a new NOFA for the Emergency Solutions Grant Program. She highlighted that the grant requires a match and the application due date is September 15. Additionally, the CoC released a Request for Proposals for separate funding that is also from the Emergency Solutions Grant. This grant similarly requires a match and the proposal is due on September 15.

## **8. County Updates**

Dr. Collard shared that HHSa is writing a proposal to create a new housing department within the agency.

## **9. Discussion Items for Next Meeting**

Duane Kegg requested the Urban Campsite Project as an Item.

Brittany Collier proposed to speak about the impact of homelessness on youth.

Jacqueline Nushi offered to reach out to a contact who works in the homeless service field as a possible guest speaker.

## **10. Adjournment**



Duane Kegg adjourned the meeting at 2:40pm.

**Next Meeting**

October 6, 2021

1:30pm-3:00pm

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