

**Regional Task Force on the Homeless
Ad Hoc Committee on Aging and Homelessness**

**May 25, 2021:
Meeting Notes**

I. Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members: Paul Downey (chair), Dr. Piedad Garcia, Drew Moser, Anna Zimbrick, Ben Moraga, Bob Kelly, Camey Christenson, Connie German- Marquez, Jeff Gering, Kimberly Gallo, Liz Wellbrock, Shaina Gross, Tricia Levien, Veronica Blea

RTFH Staff: Tamera Kohler, Susan Bower, Zoe Ridgway

II. Action Item: Review Purpose of Committee

- Purpose of Committee Reviewed: There is a growing number of older adults facing homelessness, and their needs are different than other populations experiencing homelessness. Purpose of the committee is to identify unique needs and develop recommendations to address them.

III. Discussion Item: Review Initial Data

- ***“Funder Convening with Experts on Aging, Health and Homelessness” Presentation by Tamera Kohler***
 - i. Nationally older adult homeless population is projected to increase along with the costs to care for them, many older adults who are homeless have had adverse life experiences.
 - ii. Statistics provided from 2020 SD PIT.
 - iii. Older homeless adults are highly vulnerable to acts of violence and exploitation.
 - iv. Housing interventions need strong connection to health care, there are several pathways for prevention and intervention.
- ***“Key Findings from Serving Seniors Survey 2021” Presentation by Paul Downey***
 - i. Goal of study was to identify gaps and barriers, examine the data, and identify best practices.
 - ii. Study was conducted in a mixed method approach; experience interviews, literature scan, older adult, provider and prevention surveys.
 - iii. Key findings: Majority had low wage jobs, lack of safety net or catastrophic event/crisis was the primary cause of their homelessness. These individuals are *economically* homeless, with the right resources these problems can be fixed.
 - iv. 62 is an age marker as terms of resource availability, 55-61 age group has a higher physical disability, mental health struggles, and individuals experiencing social isolation.
 - v. Older adults are averse to shelters because of lack of privacy, room, risk of theft or exposure to substances but 39% expressed need for shelter.
 - vi. System is successful in medical, nutrition and hygiene goods, however improvement is still needed.
 - vii. The largest take away from this survey is that 53% of individuals responded that they needed \$300 or less to feel rent secure.
- ***211 San Diego Data Report: Trends from 2020 to 2021***



- i. Looking at the trends from 2020 to 2021, there has been a large jump in the severity of older callers and urgency to get these individuals in homes.
- ii. 211 is seeing a high volume in callers over 60, they have also identified a high volume of prevention opportunities. As a community we have the opportunity to interrupt this trend and focus on prevention work.
- iii. Camey encourage committee to take a deeper look at the reports, she is available to highlight more trends in future meetings.
Action: Camey Christenson will bring a report to next meeting regarding a housing assessment and an activities of daily living assessment of 54 individuals surveyed.

- **Committee Reflections**

- i. San Diego Seniors Community Foundation did a pilot project with San Diego Workforce Partnership about seniors who are unemployed. This program found similar data to that provided earlier, the majority of individuals were around \$300 from losing their homes but could not find a job. Illustrates for most of these older adults, they are suffering from an economic issue.
Action: Shaina Gross of San Diego Workforce Partnership will bring these findings to next meeting.
- ii. Agree that the 55-60 age group is getting lost as there are several resources for 60+ age groups.
- iii. There is a current effort at the state to move the age from 65+ to 60+ for adult protective services, as there is a large quantity of callers who cannot qualify for resources.
- iv. *Many older adults are just a sliver away from being homeless, diversion is critical with this population, paired with case management and service navigation.*

IV. Framing Current Opportunities and Potential Advocacy Opportunities

- i. \$300 can be vital in prevention and diversion if we are leaning in to the harm reduction model. Needs to be something we can look at in a clear and actionable way
- ii. Emergency housing vouchers provided to Housing Authorities with requirement to coordinate with CoC. There are 805 vouchers coming to our region, and are tenant-based vouchers, in that they are issued to an individual or household and stay with them. This committee can make a recommendation to the CoC to prioritize older adults.
- iii. Committee can look at existing resources in the community that can be brought forward.

Action: Jeff Gering makes a motion to make a recommendation to the CoC to prioritize older adults in the distribution of EHV. Ben Moraga seconds the motion. All in favor.

*Ensure that racial inequities are taken in to account in recommendation.

V. Actions/Timelines

Action: Zoe will send out Doodle poll to inquire about a date for next meeting, recognizing we want it to occur before the June 17 CoC Board meeting

Next Meeting Date: TBD **Time:** TBD **Location:** Zoom Video Conference (see link in meeting invitation)