

**Regional Task Force on Homelessness
Ad Hoc Committee on Health and Homelessness**

**July 1, 2021:
Meeting Notes**

I. Welcome/ Introductions

Committee Members Present: Karen McCabe (co-chair), Jonathan Castillo (co-chair), Camey Christenson, Hannan Scrapper, Jeff Gering, Kuni Stearns, Lindsey Wade, Ruth Bruland
RTFH Staff Present: Susan Bower, Zoe Ridgway

II. Action Item: Approval of June 3, 2021 Meeting Notes

- a. Motion to approve minutes by Karen McCabe and seconded by Ruth Bruland.
Yay: 9 Nay: 0
- b. *Motion passed, minutes approved.*

III. Discussion Items:

a. Definition of Emergency Shelter from Community Standards

- i. The definition of an Emergency Shelter was reviewed by Susan to clarify what services the group should be focusing on.
- ii. Clarification of Transitional Housing Programs versus Emergency Shelter: Transitional Housing is usually higher barrier and longer-term housing for up to two years, focused on the client adhering to program rules and following a process that varies between providers. For the purposes of this group, time and energy is better spent focusing on Emergency Shelters.
- iii. For the purposes of this discussion Safe Parking Lots will be categorized within Emergency Shelter Programs.
- iv. Camey Christenson provided perspective from 211, this list only includes occupancy not capacity, 211 does not have the information regarding to State funded bed capacity.

b. Creating a Community Friendly Emergency Shelter Guide

- i. From a provider perspective, the eligibility section of the list is important to highlight due to the fact that many of these beds have restrictions, this is also important to know from a healthcare perspective.
- ii. Grouping services by region will be helpful, for the purposes of this committee shelters in Imperial County will be removed from this list.
- iii. There are not enough resources to provide a consistently updated "Emergency Shelter Guide", 211 and RTFH already provide a pocket guide of all shelters.
- iv. Instead this committee will develop an analysis or asset map of existing resources and shelter programs, that might help to identify gaps and inform future recommendations this committee will make.
- v. CALAIM should be kept in mind during this discussion; recognizing that the specific set of services has not yet been finalized.



- vi. Identifying a point of contact in each of the shelters for the hospitals to connect with is a goal this committee has discussed before, however this is not realistic as discharges occur at all hours and staff turnover occurs quickly, identifying a singular point of contact would imply this person is available 24/7.
- vii. Karen, Susan, Jonathan, Lindsey and Zoe will meet next week to discuss next steps of developing the Emergency Shelter Asset/Analysis Map. The 211 Resource Team can reach out to providers if more information regarding services is needed.

c. Workplan Review: Leads and Priorities

- i. Due to time constraints, the committee did not review the workplan to identify leads and priorities.

d. Identification of sub-group to develop list of systemic barriers or misalignments – supports Item 1c of Workplan

- i. This goal was set prior to the committee shifting from creating an Emergency Shelter Guide to an Emergency Shelter Analysis/Asset Map. The committee has decided to pause on this until the analysis has been developed, because this information might be discovered then.

IV. Update on Statewide Learning Community

- a. This was the last session on Street Medicine, they talked about USC's School of Medicine Program called Trojan Trainers. This program is for medical students and Physical Assistants practicing street medicine, the trainers are exclusively people with lived experience. This program has embraced the concept that people with lived experience need to be training students and PAs how to approach street medicine.
- b. A point that heavily applies to the purposes of this committee is that "Homeless service providers need a guide on how to navigate the health care system just like health care representatives working on the streets need a guide to navigate the homeless system".
- c. The next series will cover behavioral health, there is a portal where all information is listed regarding each session. Susan will begin to send information out following each session, to be distributed within each member's network.

Next Meeting: August 5th 2021 **Time:** 3:00-4:00pm **Location:** Zoom (see link in invitation)