

Fresno Madera Lived Experience Advisory Board

DECEMBER 20, 2022 5-7PM

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

Andrea Owen

Allis Vallejo

Audra Hewlett

Mary Mason

Alex Sanchez

Francine Ramirez

Jonathan Avedian, County of Fresno

Jennifer Kirkpatrick, County of Fresno

Yvette Quiroga, County of Fresno

Maya Spark, Homebase

II. Fresno County Presentation: HOME-ARP Funds

The County of Fresno presented regarding HOME-ARP funds and requested feedback regarding funding priorities. The County reviewed what the funds can be used for, including rental assistance, construction of non-congregate shelter or rental units, and supportive services. They also reviewed the eligible populations for funds, which includes both people at-risk of homelessness and currently experiencing homelessness.

The LEAB provided feedback to the County regarding funding priorities and said that there are no rental units for people when they have vouchers or rental assistance, especially in rural areas. The LEAB was supportive of providing supportive services and gave feedback that the CoC should not be putting people straight off the street into housing without supportive services and that housing providers need to focus services on addressing the needs that contributed to their homelessness in the first place. Some Members of the LEAB also like the idea of community within a housing project rather than just finding people their own apartment spread out across the City.

III. Point in Time Count Planning Process

Maya Spark thanked the LEAB for their feedback on the PIT survey questions and reminded the LEAB that the PIT volunteer registration flyer is in the public folder. There are mandatory trainings in January if you want to volunteer.

IV. Review Membership Applications

Alex Sanchez let the LEAB Members know that the LEAB framework allows for a total of 12 LEAB members and that the LEAB currently has 7. Alex explained all of the targeted outreach that has been completed and that only 4 applications were received since the last time applications were reviewed in September. Alex reviewed an updated chart showing the current LEAB representation to remind the group what representation the LEAB has and what representation it lacks. Alex also reminded the LEAB that the Framework they developed set a goal of 1/3 of the LEAB being currently homeless. The LEAB first reviewed the new applications received then reviewed the applications that were reviewed in September and took a vote. The LEAB voted to add two new members, one from the September applications and one from the most recent batch of applications.

The LEAB also voted to edit the Framework to limit people who work for housing providers from applying and then to make corresponding edits to the membership application. Homebase will bring proposed language to the next meeting for LEAB review.

V. Review CoC's Written Standards

This item was pushed to January.

VI. Conferences: NAEH Applications for Conference Scholarships and Housing California Conference LEAB Panel

Alex Sanchez asked whether any LEAB members applied for the NAEH conference scholarships and mentioned he was not accepted. Alex also updated the LEAB that the 2023 CoC budget includes a line item for LEAB conferences or trainings. The LEAB agreed to put a discussion of this budget item on the January agenda to propose to the Board how they think these funds should be utilized.

VII. LEAB Chair CoC Meeting Update

Alex Sanchez and Maya Spark gave an update on the November CoC meetings and mentioned this will be a standing update at future LEAB meetings and that there is a LEAB standing update at the CoC General Membership meetings that Alex gives there.

The CoC General Membership meetings are the second Thursday of the month from 8:30AM-10:30AM and are open to the public. There are 40+ official members of the CoC who pay dues and can vote at these meetings. These are mostly agencies and jurisdictions. Outside of the role on the CoC's LEAB, LEAB Members can also become a member of the CoC in an individual capacity and have voting rights. There is an individual membership application and LEAB Members can just check the box that they are currently or formerly homeless and the dues automatically get

waived. Please speak with Misty for more information about this. At the November CoC General Membership meeting the following was discussed:

- The CoC approved its 2023 budget, including a line item to continue to pay stipends for this Committee and to potentially provide conference scholarships for LEAB members.
- The CoC approved its 2023 revised membership applications.
- The City of Fresno presented on their 2023-2024 Emergency Solutions Grant funding and the types of projects they plan to fund. There was a lot of discussion about this and feedback from the CoC but the CoC eventually approved these allocations.
- Maya presented the new CoC Governance Charter which was approved. This included a provision that the LEAB appoints the Currently/Formerly Homeless Board Member to the CoC Board rather than that position being elected by the CoC General Membership. The LEAB already made that formal appointment at the October meeting, so that appointment will take effect in Quarter 1 2023 when the person currently in that position's term ends. In the meantime Alex is calling into the Board Meetings anyway in preparation to take over that position.
- Maya gave an update on CoC funding and provided a summary for the CoC on how agencies are doing spending that money. The CoC gets \$10-11 million dollars every year from the federal government to mostly renew existing Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs. The agencies with this funding on average only spend about 72% of that. Since 2021 a Grant Spend Committee has been working on this issue to reallocate over \$2M from projects that have not been spending their money to new projects that hopefully will. We won't see the results of this for a couple of years, as grants run a year behind (i.e., the 2020 grant is for 2021-2022 so a reallocation from a 2021 grant won't show up until 2022-2023).
- Alex gave an update on the LEAB and the November meeting. The LEAB update will be a standing update that Alex will give at CoC meetings.
- There was information provided about a Training Plan the CoC is working on for Members, about the PIT Count, and then the County and City of Fresno and Marjaree Mason Center gave their standing updates.

The CoC Board meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 8AM and these meetings are not open to the public. Alex is calling into these meetings before he becomes an official Board Member. The November Board meeting was very similar to the CoC General Membership meeting as the Board reviews all items before they go to the CoC General Membership.

If you have updates you want Alex to share with the CoC Board or General Membership please let him know, or you can attend CoC meetings and there is a public comment/open forum/announcements section at the end.

VIII. Agenda Items for January Meeting

- New member introductions
- Review the CoC's Written Standards
- Language for Framework: housing provider LEAB applicant language
- Conferences policy for CoC budget line item
- PIT Count – training feedback, PIT Count preparation, preferred method for eventual PIT feedback.