



IVCCC Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2019

IVCCC MISSION

TO ENGAGE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF IMPERIAL VALLEY IN A COMMUNITY-BASED PROCESS THAT WORKS TO ERADICATE HOMELESSNESS IN THE REGION, ADDRESSES THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS, AND LESSENS THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS ON INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY.

LOCATION: DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SERVICES- KARI HILL TRAINING CENTER
2995 SOUTH 4TH STREET, SUITE 106 EL CENTRO, CA.

- I. Welcome/Pledge/Invocation: Lee Quarcelino (Pledge), Orlando Johnson (Invocation)
- II. Introductions:
- III. Approval of Agenda: Les Smith – Approved, Orlando Johnson–Seconded.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for March 14, 2019: Rosie Blankenship Approved, Alexis Ayala- Seconded.
- V. Public Comments: No Report.

- VI. Presentations: Morgan Velin, Military Transition Support Project, zero8hundred
 - A. Morgan Velin introduced the “zero8hundred”, which is a transitional program for retired individuals, and military veterans/spouses. This program offers unemployment, education, and mental health supportive services. Morgan Velin stated that it is essential to make community connections since the programs’ offices are located in San Diego. Stated that the Imperial Valley is a primary focus. One of the important factors that this program provides is the prevention of homelessness. It is easy to enroll online at www.zero8hundred.org , and it is free. Says that transitioning can be very difficult for certain individuals, and it is important that people are informed, and aware of the many supportive services/resources available to veterans. Morgan concluded with a “thank you” for allowing her to present herself, and the transitional program to Imperial County.

- VII. Reports/Discussion/Action Items:
 - A. CoC Standing Committee Reports - Mickey Castro:

E-mails were sent out with forms to complete and return, designating chair, Co-Chair, Members, Meeting Dates/Times/Location, and Goals. Essential that committees are active which will give us more points with HUD applications. Stated that there are almost 200 committee members, and attendees. Between 40-50 are in attendance during the meetings. Says that more participation is needed in the committees. Encourages each other to network more, and invite individuals to join the committees. Wants to make sure there is a list with names, e-mails, and contact information of the committee members available for individuals to reach out. Committee meetings are not limited, and are available to everyone who resides within the Imperial County. The public should be included, and encourages all to join a group they are passionate about and participate.

 1. Point in Time - Isaen Equihua-

Says they are still working on the numbers to finalize, and submit. The committee has not met, or spoken because they are just working on the final count. No other updates to report.

2. Youth Services: Luis Torres-
Says that the group had sessions for peer support for I.V.C & E.O.P.S. Nikita Gupta from UCLA was there to talk about trauma, and great positive feedback was received for the presenter. Hopes to do another presentation due to the positive results.

Youth Foster Care workshop on May 3rd, at IVC; for more information regarding sign-ups- contact Lucerito Tirado. Parking will be free at IVC for that day. Also wanted to inform that there will be a showing of a documentary called *"Breaking the Cycle"*, a story of a girl named Georgette, who started her story here in the Imperial Valley; then to San Diego, and has been in foster care all her life. The director will also be there to answer questions after the showing of the film. Save the date for *"Childhood Trauma"* on May 3rd, 2019 from 8:30am-11:30am. Says that this is a good opportunity for I.V.C and I.C.O.E to gather information and implement on victims of childhood trauma. It is also a report that serves as a preventative tool to identify, and help prevent long-term homelessness issues.

Informed about *"Camp America/Camp Hope"* that takes place during the summer for children who have experienced trauma. It is also to help people, and children. The camp is currently recruiting right now, and if interested it is advised to sign-up in advanced since they fill-up quickly.

3. Veteran's Committee: Lee Quarcelino; Vietnam Veteran-
Stated that he sent out e-mails, and only one person responded back. Extends an invitation at the Desert Trails Resort Offices located at 225 Wake Ave. El Centro, 92243 on April 16th, 2019 at 5:30pm. Would like everyone to please attend, so they can get things going. Says that last year many homeless individuals attended, and their attendance was helpful due to their personal feedback. Everything is free for Veterans. Will be sending out e-mails out for next Tuesday, April 16th, 2019. Lee Quarcelino is proud, and honored to be here, and hopes to hear back from Lowe's, since they were the #1 company to hire homeless Veterans. Reminder that on May 9th is Veterans Appreciation Day at the I.I.D Office from 11am-1:00pm.
Karina Hiraoka- Looking for apartments for 4 clients.
4. Mainstream and Resources: No Report.
5. Outreach and Recruitment: Isaen Equihua-
No Updates. If anyone would like to join this committee, please contact Isaen Equihua.
6. Education, Training and Employment: Kathy Grijalva-
Committee has not met yet, but they are still trying to find programs that provide supportive services. Would like to know who the members are, and what agency they are involved in. To please e-mail, and identify their occupation/committee/agency group.
7. Diversity and Inclusion: No Report.
8. Domestic Violence: Yereida Soto-
Met with agency and set goals. Committee shared what the best practices are, and how to implement, and understand them. On July 11th, trainings/presentation will be held regarding best practices, questions to ask, when working with victims. The goal is to successfully practice with victims of domestic violence.
9. Ken Wuytens- Chair for Evaluation Committee-
Will let Mickey Castro know updates, who is part of the committee to date, and meeting dates.

B. Executive Board Reports: Les Smith, Executive Board Chair –

Stated that the *Point in Time* committee is very essential, because it gives the opportunity to collect data within the homeless community. Anna Garcia, and Isaen Equihua have headed it, but will be moving on.

Informed that the Board has extended to a total of 11 members. Andrea Khulen from Behavioral Health is on board, and Maria Nava, director of Calipatria FRC is also on board. Currently broadening the coverage to represent the entire Imperial County.

HMIS-Leadership Academy went to Atlanta; goal is to implement in the fall. Mandatory to participate in HMIS if applying for funds.

C. IVCCC Administrative Entity Report: Rosyo Ramirez-

1. HEAP Update: Says there was an RFP announcement, and that everyone should have received it. Attending the workshops is mandatory for those who are applying for funding. There is great feedback regarding the grant. Please register so the amount of people is accounted for, and to verify attendees. Proposals are due Friday, May 3, 2019. Anything submitted after that date will not be considered, or answered. All questions regarding the IVCCC will be updated on the website. Send questions to Debbie at Purchasing.
2. CESH Update: Still waiting for the grant agreements. CESH funding was released on April 8th, 2019. There will be a meeting in about two weeks for those who will receive CESH. The applications for CESH funding will be due on June 8th; it has been extended for one month. This year's funding is not as much as last year, but it will be enough to provide assistance. County received \$677,522. There are 12 projects receiving funds. There were some unfunded projects. Rosyo is proactively working with the state, and verifying information, and will update the members with any news.
3. ESG grant Update: Currently working with the board to approve the ESG grant. ESG is due on May 30th. Information will be updated online. The estimated amount is \$308,918. In 2018, Catholic Charities, and Woman Haven received \$200,000.
4. HMIS Update: Updates are to be expected within the next week. Still waiting on dates for the trainings. As soon as the information is available to Rosyo, it will be forwarded to Mickey Castro. Anyone who has HMIS has to go through the training due to new system, and new vendor.
5. IVCCC Governance Charter: Currently asking the state for technical assistance regarding the charter, help develop homeless plans, and how programs need to be adapted to the requirements. Focus on structure/set plans, and goals. The IVCCC annual meeting will take place in May, 2019. It is to review, and approve the governance charter/ratify roster.

VIII. Roundtable:

- a. -Les Smith: Would like to publically thank Esperanza Colio-Warren, Rosyo Ramirez, Mickey Castro, and all of the staff for their tremendous work. This has been an overwhelming project. Says that there is a total of 4.6 million dollars, and only \$200,000.00 covers administrative costs, which is a 50% shortfall. Asks everyone to please keep in mind that the county is in a real strong position to help and support.
- b. -Rosie Blankenship: Wanted to say that on Monday/Tuesday was "Bring Awareness", and did a great job to bring attention for people who suffer from addiction in the Imperial Valley. Also says that Imperial Valley was selected from the Department of Healthcare Services. Sates that they are

working with the community to co-create how to identify current values, gaps, barriers, and how to help individuals transition into normal life from addictions. Says that everyone should work together as a community, and how to approach individuals to help them battle addictions, and live a drug-free life. It is a 12-month process. Would like to bring in more information from the homeless population; so that individuals can have a better understanding of addictive behaviors. Concluded with the question: "What can we do to help?"

c. - Mickey Castro: Says that attending workshops/seminars regarding "*Brain Health*", and addictions is helpful in understanding addictive illnesses, and what it does to the brain. With educational information individuals can have a better understanding of addiction, and addictive behaviors. Highest overdose rate is in the North end.

d. -Anna Garcia: Wanted to update everyone on last meeting's presentation with Sgt. Thompson. During that meeting there was a case discussed about a couple seeking homelessness assistance. However, it was an unsuccessful case due to the underlying fact that the couple is missing, or they do not want to be found. Would like to see a list of people/agencies that could be contacted right away in order to help individuals who need immediate assistance. The overall cause of the couple going "missing" is that they felt they had been given the "run-around". These people do not have time, and in most cases they do not own phones. They are often calling agencies, and being transferred from call-to-call, or put on hold for more than 15 minutes. All these individuals wanted was housing.

Would like to announce that Filemena Huerta has been of great help, and has participated with the group. Concluded on how these individuals want the help right away.

e. -Tomás Oliva: Wanted to express how disappointed he was with the lack of help/supportive services. Wants to know who sits down with the notary to get the information, and help these individuals get ready to transition to employment, or for public benefits. Stated that Summer is coming, and the outdoor conditions are critical for homeless individuals.

f. -Rosie Blankenship: Would like to add to that comment, that some individuals say they want help, but most of the time are non-compliant. Immediate funding is necessary in order to help them right away. The services are there, but they refuse to participate.

g. - Jessica Solorio: Says that they do have immediate funding to help. Stated that if anyone needed a check for housing, she has the ability to help them. However, some do not want the help, or refuse to participate during the process or are not capable of following through.

h. -Susan Chasang: Stated that there are fundamental differences. There is a practicality with everything, and there is a process to follow. Says that everyone wants the help right away, but there is a process and it takes time.

i. -Rosyo Ramirez: Says that with HUD funding there is also a protocol, "We house first, then we help." Stated that there is a need for more volunteers to personally coordinate, and meet with members. The specific petitions to be submitted to IVCCC should have plenty of time to speak/plan actions. The goal is to have the Coordinating entry system develop policies for recommendations.

j. -Mickey Castro: Followed with suggestion to figure out the philosophy/policies of all the programs, and then go from there.

k. - Les Smith: Suggested on possible summit in September/October from 8am-1pm/action plans?

IX. Meeting Adjourn – Next Meeting: Thursday, May 9, 2019 from 8:30-10:00 a.m.