



IVCCC Meeting Minutes

March 14, 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 Minutes: Rosie Blankenship – Approved, Maria Nava–Seconded.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for February 14, 2019: Ken Wuytens Approved, Esperanza Colio- Seconded.
- V. Public Comments:
 1. Anna Garcia: Wanted to share with members that they are currently working to assist residents with homelessness services. Mentioned a priority case about a couple who are in their mid-50's who receive services, and they are requesting housing. DSS does not have a program for housing support for non-CalWORKs customers, but are currently trying to find placement for these individuals. Questions asked: "Who do we refer these people to?" and "Who can help them?"
 2. Sgt. Thompson: Mentioned about a case he is trying to resolve with an individual who is always cooperating with Law Enforcement, does not have an addiction problem, but he does suffer due to low employment wages, and homelessness. States that they always try to start with their best candidate, and go from there. Officers are constantly looking for ways to help, and educate themselves on who to refer these people to, and is happy to help. Also wanted to inform that officers learned a lot from ride-along sessions in San Bernardino with Behavioral Health. Says that he tries to refer these individuals to Behavioral Health to see if that agency might be able to help them. He invited Behavioral Health to ride along.
 3. Jessica Solorio: Informed that the organization "*Spread the Love Charity*" has funds available to those who qualify and it helps with rent deposits, but they have to be able to sustain their rent in order for the agency to assist. It is a case-by-case situation and agency needs to see where these people are financially in order to help them with their rent deposit.
 4. Esperanza Colio Warren: Added that agencies are to be identified and addressed in order to make contact, but not until we have agencies to help individuals with these services. Also says that writing e-mails and sending out is successful in informing other agencies.
 5. Jessica Solorio concluded with the statement that she had experienced no success with that e-mail system, and has never received anything back.
 6. Rosyo Ramirez: Says that a coordinated entry system has not been fully executed, that there is not one agency that handles homelessness, but the CESH grant has many opportunities to help with that; however, they have not received the funding yet. There is a Resources/Mainstream committee helping gather resources and information for agencies on services towards homeless

individuals. Hopeful that in the next few months we all move forward to increase outreach and better coordination of services with the funding being made available.

7. Rosie Blankenship: Stated that the agency works with local motels to help with assistance, and temporary placement for homeless individuals.
8. Sgt. Thompson: Wanted to add that the El Centro Police Department is short-staffed, and he feels that this is an important issue within the community. He understands that the outdoor conditions are not ideal, but they can make a day out of it. Wants to make sure these individuals have the essential products they need to survive in the upcoming dangerous outdoor conditions. Encourages to reach out and let them know about any ideas or what can be done.
9. Yereida Soto: Woman Haven can help women who are victims of violence, and sexual abuse with housing. These individuals need to come in and have to be screened in order to see if they are eligible to receive services.
10. Orlando Johnson: Does not have recent numbers, but there have been additional agencies since 2018 that offer services, and may be able to help homeless individuals.

VI. Presentations: Gabriel Aguirre; IVROP-CalWORKs Housing Support Program-

- A. Says that they are working to coordinate housing programs with CalWORKs and I.V.R.O.P. Mentions that it is obvious that there are many gaps in services, but he is there to help, support, and provide assistance. Individuals need to be eligible to receive these services, it targets CalWORKs families as long as someone is receiving public assistance they may be eligible. This is a low-barrier admission program. Most importantly, these individuals need to have a lack of fixed residential home, is in a shelter, residing in a motel, and have a court ordered eviction notice. They also offer services to educate participants on how to manage their financial budget, and educate them on employment services, becoming self-sufficient, how to be a good tenant, and a how to be better neighbor. Also says that they can help with security deposits, rental fees, utilities, and transitional housing. However, they have exhausted the funding for emergency housing. There have been 231 families referred in 18 months. HUD funding was granted for \$500,000, and from that budget \$325,000 goes towards direct services to CalWORKs participants. Most of the referrals come from CalWORKs services. Reported that last year they were able to house 227 families. However, due to exhausting the funds that help with this specific services, they are not taking any referrals at the moment for temporary housing. Concluded presentation to contact him or staff with any questions or concerns. Wanted to thank his team who works day-to-day and provides tremendous services: Gloria Saldivar, Derval Wilson, and Angel Asencio.

VII. Reports/Discussion/Action Items:

- A. CoC Standing Committee Reports - Mickey Castro:

Mickey will be working with the committees and will provide e-mails, and handouts to members. Also says they are currently inviting more individuals to join committees, and participate in a group they are passionate about. More individuals are needed in order to help with priority issues within the community. Asked questions "What are we doing for homeless?" "What are we doing for diversity and inclusion?" "What additional services can be provided for the different population?". Also mentioned that if anyone wanted to be added to the committee; they can still sign up for one. Says they need more points in HUD applicants which will give a better chance to increase services, and good reason to activate and develop more committees. For this to happen, we need to work together and help improve public services. Says we need someone to take the lead in each committee, and work on goals to select Chair/Co-Chair, and schedule meetings. For any direction or guidance please call.

1. Point in Time - No Report.
2. Youth Services: - Luis Torres:
Started by saying that the meetings are not mandatory, but it helps if people attend to them. There is good news based on the trauma practices/training. The class filled up in less than a week. Over 150 people signed up in one week. Was very pleased and happy to see people wanting to help in the community. Also wants to collaborate with IVC so they can work together to help students. Mickey Castro reported that there are 160 students attending classes at I.V.C, that are currently homeless. Luis Torres asked if anyone attended the San Diego Office of Education trainings. If anyone is interested a full-day of training costs \$200. It would be helpful if someone attended and they can go back to their agency and train their staff. Also invited committee members to attend. Says that a lot of school staff, and agency staff have attended and learned the training. Possible upcoming event on May 3rd, a follow-up confirm info call, and save the date. Another trauma event on April 1st, for trauma info in Sacramento. There are 6 scholarships for \$1,200 each, to apply go to IVROP/ACE website. Would highly appreciate letters of support. There was a conference for homeless adults in San Diego on February 22nd, and February 23rd. If anyone wants to help or collaborate; meetings are held once a month, typically the last Wednesday of the month. Concluded that it is a very alarming issue, and any help is appreciated; there have been about 500 homeless youth reported every year.
3. Veteran's Committee: No Report.
4. Mainstream and Resources: No Report.
5. Outreach and Recruitment: No Report.
6. Education, Training and Employment: No Report.
7. LGBT: No Report.
8. Domestic Violence: No Report.

B. Executive Board Reports: Rosyo Ramirez on behalf of Les Smith, Executive Board Chair –

1. Informed on the meeting that took place on March 6th, which focused on HEAP funding, and when it is expected to be released. The committee drafted the sample contracts and are getting everything ready, and set to go. HEAP is not ready, it is still under review and is expected to be released by the end of the month. Board is still reviewing and need to come to a final agreement. There will be an application template to guide and build a proposal. Informed that the County will manage the HEAP funds, and allocate them appropriately. The funding principles are not specific. There will be a grant allocation going towards homeless services. The IVCCC Executive Board's adopted funding principles to help guide and prioritize grant allocation while working through the HEAP RFP.

The funding principles are as follows:

- a) Invest in programs that support Imperial County's service priorities: permanent housing, rapid re-housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing and supportive services to end homelessness.
- b) Invest in programs that support Imperial County's homeless population priorities and align with HUD-recommended subpopulations such as veterans, youth, families and chronically homeless individuals.

c) Invest in programs that work towards eradicating homelessness in the region by addressing the underlying causes and lessening the negative impact on individuals, families, and community.

d) Invest in programs that address significant service gaps among the chronically homeless and establish accountable, long-term, and sustainable results.

e) Invest in programs that support the housing first policy and emphasize on a comprehensive coordinated service delivery approach to wraparound services to ensure successful housing and self-sufficiency outcomes.

The board feels that there should be a plan available to present in order to follow principles and solutions. The executive board appointed Andrea Kuhlen, and Maria Nava as part of the executive board. Dr. Kathleen Lang was appointed to the position of Treasurer and Rosie Blankenship has taken the position of Secretary.

A team lead through a Public Health leadership program is working on coordinate entry system. The team will be getting together next week to discuss further steps and plans.

C. IVCCC Administrative Entity Report: Rosyo Ramirez

Had important recommendations/ Information that committees submitted to Mickey Castro. Hoping that changes are made by May, and also incorporate the meetings dates, and how to improve them. E-mails will be sent out to contact members.

2. HEAP Update: Says that the RFP and sample agreement is currently under legal counsel review. As soon as it is reviewed it will be released; hopes it will be by the end of the month. There will be a required workshop attendance a week or two after REP. If anyone has any questions, there will be an opportunity for individuals to submit their questions electronically and then be posted online. A potential of a second release of funds to be allocated to different areas. The RFP will invest into preventive services, rental assistance, capital improvement, and youth services.
3. CESH Update: Have not received an agreement from the State; therefore, there is no funding. Wants to meet with CESH representatives and talk about contractors on agreements.
4. HUD Update: No Report. The 2019 application was due today. Updates on information still pending.
5. HMIS Update: Contract to be expected to be signed this week. New vendor is Clarity. There will be required training for new users. Will send out information to members on updates, plans, and ideas. Agency are recommended to set funds aside for HMIS users.

VIII. Roundtable:

a. Maria Nava: Invitation to a City Council meeting in Calipatria at 6:00 p.m. Also wanted to add that a grant has been approved for 3 years, \$500,000 per year, and funds will be allocated towards important issues within the community. There are openings for 5 agencies to be selected by the committee in order to get more people involved and help to serve the community. On March 20th, Annual Children's Fair will be held in Calipatria School, snacks and lunch will be provided.

b. Rosie Blankenship: Wanted to announce that they are currently working very hard to place homeless individuals. She also announced that the State of the County will take place tonight DOC Organics in Westmorland.

c. Brandy Galvan: Extends an invitation to the Surehelpline GALA that will be held on April 12th. This event will help raise funds for victims of violence and sexual assault. Also informed that April represents *Sexual Assault Month*. This event will take place at the Desert Trailer Parks, \$65.00 per ticket or \$575.00

per table. Also added that On April 24th will be “Denim Day”, an international event due to a rape issue that occurred in Italy during the 1990’s. April 26th is “Walk the Mile” where men participate to walk in heels in order to show support for women’s assault issues.

d. Ken Wuytens: Invited and informed about Brawley’s Horse Racing event. Gates open at 5:45 and first race starts at 6:30. There will be approximately 8-12 races, and the event will be over between 8:30-9:00 p.m. Prices ranging from \$75.00 to \$150.00.

IX. Meeting Adjourn – Next Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2019 from 8:30-10:30 a.m.