



Mohave County Homeless Continuum of Care



Mohave County Homeless Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

Date February 12, 2025

Location Mohave County Administration Building, 700 W. Beale St. Kingman AZ, 86401
Saguaro Conference Room

Board Officers Present: Kelly Williams-Greer, Chairman; Joey Bourgeois, Co-Chair; Danielle Holloway, Co-Chair; Joyce Sanchez-Torres, Secretary

Members Present: Chaisea Marshall, Natasha Taggart, Allene Steed, Amanda Matthews, Pat Farrell, Joe Freed, Melissa Register, Robert Devries, Wendy Kasprzyk-Roberts, Ronald Pisciotta, Bre Schroder, Scott Wright, Kristy Bandy, Michelle Cooke, Lorrie Duggins, Ruben Ramirez, Sahra Chavez, Ali De La Trinidad, Cydni Irving, Christina Register, Terra Sue Honey, Kristi A. Denk, Rebecca Ligor, Corena Martinez, Mona Acayturri, Helen B. Ekholt, Deb Liverence, Angie Foltz, Kelly Tanner, Nayilla Nunez, Michael Smith, Jamie Bernier, Stephan Cheatham, Joe Debaca, Patty Jacques, Sheena Campos, Jennie Montano

Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of December 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Williams asked members present to review the attached meeting minutes and asked if there were any needed changes or correction.

Motion: Josh Ramierz made a motion to accept December 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes as written.

2nd: Michael Smith seconds the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion and Possible Action: Nominations for Chair, Cochair (2), Secretary, and Membership Committee

The speaker expresses gratitude for the opportunity to serve over the past year and highlights the Continuum of Care's (CoC) achievements. Meeting attendance has more than doubled from 20 to 52 participants, reflecting increased engagement from individuals and agencies. Key accomplishments include assisting two clients in transitioning from homelessness to homeownership, helping multiple clients move from permanent supportive housing to self-sufficiency programs, and expanding outreach to underserved areas like the Arizona Strip and Colorado City. The CoC also implemented the Atlas referral system, improving service coordination, and fully integrated the HMIS referral system to track referrals and prevent individuals from slipping through the cracks. The Fresh Start Resource and Hiring Events have been instrumental in connecting attendees to essential services, with plans to assess their long-term impact. The CoC is also collaborating on the H2O project, linking Medicaid with housing services, a significant step forward. Finally, the speaker proudly announces that the CoC has been recognized as the highest performing in

Arizona, attributing this success to the dedication and collaboration of all members. In closing, nominations are made to retain the current leadership team, recognizing their strong performance and commitment to continued progress.

Motion: Kelly Tanner made a motion to renominate all standing officer

2nd: Michael Smith seconds the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion and Possible Action: New leads for sub committee

The speaker reviews the CoC subcommittees, outlining their functions and leadership opportunities. The existing subcommittees include Criminal Justice, JEDI, Veteran Outreach, Veterinary Services, Federal Committee, and HMIS Coordinated Entry, with a proposal to merge the last two. Additionally, a new McKinney-Vento Committee is being introduced to address the rising number of homeless youth and strengthen engagement with school liaisons.

- Michelle Cook, the McKinney-Vento liaison for Kingman Unified School District, volunteers to lead this committee, given her experience and dedication, which is met with enthusiastic approval.

Subcommittee leadership confirmations follow:

- Criminal Justice Committee – Joey Bourgeois remains chair.
- JEDI Committee – Patty Jacques continues as chair, though its necessity may change in the coming year.
- Veteran Outreach – Ray White remains chair.
- HMIS Coordinated Entry – Nayilla Nunez steps up to lead after a discussion on merging the two committees.

Discussion and Possible Action: Review system performance measure

The 2025-2026 Strategic Action Plan was presented, outlining key performance measures and goals set by ADOH. Since the plan now follows a two-year cycle, the CoC has more time to implement and refine initiatives. Given the CoC's strong track record as a high-performing group, members were encouraged to review the detailed strategies provided and come prepared to select key focus areas at the April meeting. Rather than choosing only the minimum of two performance measures, the group agreed to aim for broader impact. Various data tracking tools, including Tableau, Atlas, HMIS, and internal systems, will be used to measure progress effectively. Aligning with ADOH performance measures not only helps the CoC stay proactive but also increases funding opportunities and ensures structured collaboration with shelters, supportive housing, and wraparound services. To facilitate this process, a Strategic Plan Committee was proposed, consisting of all subcommittee chairs and the four CoC chairs, to ensure representation and coordination. A motion was made and passed to officially establish this committee, reinforcing the CoC's commitment to staying ahead of policy changes and funding priorities.

Motion: Kelly Tanner motioned to establish the Strategic Action Plan

Meeting 2nd: Josh Ramirez seconded the motion

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion and Possible Action: PIT Count preliminary numbers

The preliminary Point-in-Time (PIT) Count results indicate that 380 surveys have been collected so far, with nine additional surveys pending from Colorado City. This marks an improvement compared to last year's count of 562 surveys. However, challenges arose as some individuals were displaced from dry camping areas. While Kingman Police Department (KPD) assured they would not relocate people during the count, enforcement varied across different jurisdictions. Efforts to engage law enforcement in outreach proved beneficial.

Bullhead Police Department actively participated, using their ATV to reach remote encampments and assist in locating individuals experiencing homelessness. Officers respected the outreach protocol, refraining from enforcement actions like warrant checks during the count. Kingman's law enforcement approach also emphasized a "soft hand first" strategy—offering services before taking enforcement action if necessary. A key success story highlighted the impact of persistent outreach. A newly hired staff member, working under the Federal St. Outreach Program, accompanied an experienced outreach worker to a rural area. They connected with a resistant family, and after follow-up visits, the father expressed willingness to seek services—demonstrating the importance of relationship-building in outreach. Additionally, the binding list—which tracks those engaged with housing services—saw a significant reduction from 396 last year to 291 this year, showing the positive effects of coordinated efforts. Moving forward, the CoC aims to enhance data tracking by comparing year-over-year surveys to identify recurring individuals and systemic barriers. Special attention will be given to households with children and veterans, ensuring targeted interventions.

Discussion and Possible Action: Governance Charter

As part of the meeting's annual agenda, the Governance Charter for 2025 required ratification. This document, last updated in 2022, had no changes from the previous approval. The team's efforts in revising it were acknowledged, and a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt the Governance Charter for 2025.

Motion: Chesea Marshall motioned to prioritize outreach collaboration with Mohave County law enforcement agencies, particularly in areas where displacement was reported, to improve coordination and prevent disruptions during future counts.

2nd: Josh Ramirez second.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion and Possible Action: GAPS Analysis

The discussion focused on addressing gaps in services for homelessness in Mojave County. Key priorities included improving emergency assistance, increasing the availability of low-income housing, and building partnerships with property managers and landlords. Outreach efforts need to continue, particularly with private property owners and property managers, while education about available programs should be emphasized. Shelters, especially in Lake Havasu and Bullhead City, remain a concern, as well as the need for more countywide homeless prevention funds. Additional focus is needed on SOAR-trained employees, especially within behavioral health agencies and veteran services. There's also a need to address services for elderly and medically fragile individuals experiencing homelessness, working closely with local hospitals to develop discharge plans. The discussion also highlighted the importance of workforce development, ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness have access to employment training and support to prevent them from returning to homelessness. Additional concerns raised included improving transportation options, especially between cities, and enhancing cooling stations for the homeless during extreme weather. Finally, there was a call for more outreach and collaboration with local churches, and a push to ensure better awareness and access to resources, including cooling stations, to prevent heat-related deaths among the homeless population.

No action taken.

Discussion Only Re: Local Sub-Committee Update

Balance of State-Updates

The Dwell system, an integration of HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) and Access data, is being implemented by the state to help identify individuals eligible for the H2O program, which targets people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and high medical needs. Currently, it functions as a one-way data flow, where HMIS data is shared with Access to identify those with high healthcare costs, such as frequent emergency room visits and ambulance transports. In the future, there are plans for a more collaborative data-sharing agreement. This will allow Access to share some information back with HMIS agencies, such as whether an individual has Medicaid, Medicare, or food assistance, which will help service providers offer more targeted support to clients.

Case Conferencing-Updates

Nayilla Nunez, the Special Needs Housing Specialist for Mohave County, provided an update on case conferences. From January to February, 46 referrals were made to partners, including AZYP, Catholic Charities, and Cornerstone Mission. A significant portion of those referrals resulted in housing placements, thanks to the collaboration with these partners. During the last case conference, 23 additional referrals were made in just one day. The team is now able to track the success of these referrals, which was not possible before. Most of the referrals went to rapid rehousing, helping individuals who may not have a stable income or housing but now have access to the resources needed for stability. The data reflects the ongoing success of the partnership and efforts to assist clients effectively.

Criminal Justice Committee

No updates.

JEDI Committee

An update was provided on Jedi's progress. Meetings have been held with the state Jedi board, including one on November 26 and another on December 4. The group emphasized that Jedi is not going away, as confirmed by David Bridges. A future training meeting on racial equity is scheduled for February 21, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. The focus will be on addressing dramatic disparities across multiple areas, not just HMIS, and collecting data to support these efforts.

Veteran Outreach Committee

No updates.

Membership Committee

Nothing to report.

Continuum of Care Service Provider Updates

JAVC- Pat Farrel announced that in collaboration with Nation's Finest, a veteran's resource fair (formerly known as Stand Downs) will be held in Lake Havasu City on March 7th. He encouraged participants to sign up through the provided link in the chat, emphasizing that it is a great networking opportunity to connect with veterans and other resources. For any questions, Pat can be contacted at 928-716-3001.

Fresh Start Event Lake Havasu City- There are food donations like chips, hot dogs, and Little Debbie snacks. However, additional donations like fruit, cookies, or snacks are still

needed. The food is mostly prepared, and there are granola bars available. There are 12 resources signed up, with a call for more navigators, as only four have signed up so far. Volunteers with food handler cards are also needed for cooking. The event organizers are still looking for people to assist with showers, and there are 20 resources signed up now. Volunteers for the showers must be male and female, as there are separate locker rooms. Additional flyers with event details and registration links will be sent out to encourage more community involvement.

Place my Care- Angie from Place My Care provided an update on her project, Elevation Elder Care, which aims to assist homeless seniors or those at risk of homelessness who need 24-hour care but lack benefits to cover the cost. The project is getting closer to launch, and its website is nearly live. Place My Care has successfully placed 85 low-income seniors into assisted living without benefits. Elevation Elder Care will offer care for those who don't qualify for existing programs but need help managing chronic conditions. She is actively recruiting board members and will send an email when the website is live for those interested in learning more.

Oxford House- Joshua Ramirez is looking for a new house in Kingman hopefully to be done by June.

Mobile Health Unit- Penny Townsend provided an update on the Coordinated Mobile Health Unit, which is partially subsidized by the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant. This funding helps health departments detect, prevent, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. The grant has allowed for a mobile health unit that will serve various towns and communities, including those with homeless populations like Cornerstone Mission. The grant also allocated \$275,000 to complete a project in Golden Valley. Any expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to expand services to more areas, especially for underserved populations.

Chairman's Report:

The Boys and Girls Club of the Valley is now open, and the speaker's daughter loves the program. Although they are full for February, they are accepting registrations for March. Membership is \$30 for the year, with a \$40 monthly fee per child. The club operates from 2:30 PM to 6:00 PM Monday through Thursday, and until 7:00 PM on Fridays. They offer a variety of activities, including field trips, homework support, and a large multipurpose room. The summer program is also coming soon. The speaker encourages those interested to visit the website for more information and sign-ups.

Call to the Public

Nothing to Report

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm