

**Homeless Workforce Integration Network (H-WIN) Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**1.19.22**

**Meeting Recording:**

[https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/rec/share/0AEgoN6O6QEb5u\\_xlEqcX0VQWDVKIKM3XmC16s44U-ORIQnNv-DBwI88UsauP9P5.ohgTvi29n62oYucz](https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/rec/share/0AEgoN6O6QEb5u_xlEqcX0VQWDVKIKM3XmC16s44U-ORIQnNv-DBwI88UsauP9P5.ohgTvi29n62oYucz)

**Access Passcode:** @LSEL.1q

**Attendance:** Jaime Jenett, H3: Administration; Maureen Nelson, EHSD; Lynna Magnuson, SHELTER, Inc.; Susan Padan, EHSD; Martin Carrillo, Rubicon; Vicky Conerly, MDUSD; Alisha Jackson, Hope Solutions; Bill Shaw, Winter Nights; Valerie Sloven, H3; Carey Gregg, The Bay Church; Kara Levine, Acalanes UHSD; Sunne Roller, SHELTER, Inc.; Kevin Lewis, SHELTER, Inc.; Elizabeth Verdin, Hume Center; Lesley Garcia, Contra Costa Crisis Center; James Worley, SHELTER, Inc.; Tina Kvasnicka, SHELTER, Inc.; Angelica Lara, CCCOE; Michelle Anderson, SHELTER, Inc.; Brittany Grenier, Hume Center; Celina Yee-Izon, Veterans Accession House; Morgan Perkins, Hope Solutions; Magen Jack, SHELTER, Inc.; Mary Fitzgerald, SHELTER, Inc.; Denise Mills, H3; Michael Covarrubias, Rubicon Programs; Lubna Hanif, Rubicon Programs; Patricia Conley, WDBCCC; Charles Brown III, WDBCCC; Amabella Camins, Rubicon Programs; Barb Hunt, St Vincent de Paul; Maggie Montalvo, CCCOE; Susan Paul; Ambar Espinosa, Veterans Accession House; Darryl Coachman, Contra Costa Office of Education; Gerald Richards; Serene Terrazas; Leonard Ramirez, Veterans Accession House; Darcel Hutchinson, Rubicon Programs; Daniela Lezcano, Richmond Community Foundation (SparkPoint); Rasheeda Rasheed, SHELTER, Inc.; Brandon Wirth, SHELTER, Inc.; Gloribel Pastrana, Rubicon Programs; Monie Bohnsack, MDUSD; Betty GeishirtCantrell, Richmond Community Foundation (SparkPoint); Tamara Diaz, H3; Alicia Alferez, SHELTER, Inc.; Andrea Foti, SHELTER, Inc.

**I. Background on H-WIN**

Mauren Nelson provided background on the formation of H-WIN. Purpose: Provide a common forum for homeless and workforce services to come together to make connections, learn about each other's system and how they might intersect. Also, to collaborate, coordinate and problem solve to make a better experience for staff and shared client populations.

**II. Introductions**

Group members introduced themselves, using the prompt: *Share your first (or worst) job*. This exercise was an intriguing demonstration of how we adapted to bad situations and used them as growth experiences, or in some cases, cut loose from them quickly when they knew they weren't good for us. It was a good reminder of what our clients face in entry-level jobs.

**II. Structure and Leadership of H-WIN**

**Roles:** Jaime Jenett and Maureen Nelson will continue to staff the meetings (set up meeting/link, take notes). We are looking for volunteers for the next three meetings (next six months) for the following roles:

- **Chair: MONIE BOHNSACK.** Set agenda (with assistance from Jaime and Maureen) and facilitating the meetings. Time commitment: one one-hour planning meeting per H-WIN meeting.
- **Co-Chair: MORGAN PERKINS.** Backup/Understudy for Chair.
- **Regional Facilitators (West, Central, East) for break-out rooms:**
  - *West:* **GERALD RICHARDS**
  - *Central:* **MORGAN PERKINS**
  - *East:* **BETTY GEISHERT CANTRELL**

Maureen volunteered to assist with identifying and booking guest speakers.

### **III. Shared Problem Solving / Survey Results**

Prior to the meeting, Jaime surveyed registrants to ask, “What are some of the burning issues/challenges you want the group to help you think about?” These are the results:

- Employment
- Most homeless services are over population [sic] with data that doesn’t assist homeless youth; there’s not enough housing referrals for foster youth (or youth in general)
- How to get people housed the most quickly
- How to help those with mental health issues and substance use disorders (SUD) get help, especially when they need an in-patient program
- Meaningful employment while living in a shelter; lack of public transportation to get back and forth to work. Criminal background and large gaps in work history. Mental illness and alcohol and other drugs (AOD) challenges.
- While we have a workforce program, it’s very difficult for homeless residents to participate given their barriers. How can we help them? Is it possible to prioritize housing for them if they are in a workforce program?

#### **Discussion that followed:**

**Q:** How did the WIN approach issues of the group’s concerns in the past?

**A:** Workgroups formed to triage and tackle a piece of the problem.

**Q:** Is there anyone preventing someone in a shelter (or homeless) from participating in a workforce program?

**A:** No, but the issue is that it is difficult to maintain employment [or training] if one’s housing isn’t stable.

**Q:** Can people in workforce programs be prioritized for housing? Work helps maintain housing.

**A:** HUD wouldn’t like that as they have mandated that the priority is the most vulnerable. But possibly there are other ways to address that.

**Morgan:** There’s a situation where a person’s housing time was extended until she was able to finish her training program. She was working and going to school at the same time. Landlords are really looking for people with jobs. The housing-first model is hard.

**Gerald:** There are programs where people volunteer to drive people. Could they volunteer to drive people to work? That would help them get housing -- if they could reliably get to a job. *Request was made to put an info about that in the chat.*

### Possible Working Group Topics

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- CASE CONFERENCING
    - Homeless and Workforce staff
  - ADVOCACY (State? Local?)
    - State-funded transitional housing
  - PAID TRAINING/INTERNSHIPS
  - YOUTH/TAY\* HOUSING RESOURCES
    - Independent living skills
    - Connection to housing
  - FAMILIES
    - Have different needs (singles/seniors)
  - EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS
    - Transportation
      - Working adult/TAY v. child v. senior
    - Childcare
    - Stable address
    - Communication: phone/internet access
    - Shelter stays too short to stabilize
    - Spotty work history
  - NEWCOMERS (students & immigrant refugees)
  - Need for TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
    - Available for Veterans and DV
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*Transition Aged Youth = 18-24*

*CCYCS = Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services*

**Brittany** shared her experience that demonstrated the interplay of homeless and workforce systems working well: support to get an education and independent living skills and concurrently being able to move through treatment to transitional housing to permanent housing. People need to learn how to live in the community again.

**Jaime:** Unfortunately, HUD has moved away from transitional housing.

**Leonard:** There is some transitional housing on a small scale.

**Tamara** (homeless services side; formerly ran Youth Action Council) and **Maggie** (workforce services side) about the strong interagency collaboration they experienced. It is a good model.

**Maureen** shared that the WINs would sometimes choose an arc or theme to focus on for a few meetings: e.g., youth, veterans, people with disabilities (PWDs). Maybe a workgroup would like to form around a particular population. The WDB has a Youth Committee. It would be good to connect them to YAC.

*It was decided to skip breakouts for this meeting, so we moved to Agency Announcements.*

#### IV. Agency Announcements

**Betty** with SparkPoint introduced **Daniel Lezcano**, the new Site Manager for the East location in Bay Point. SP has four sites: Richmond, Contra Costa College, DVC and Bay Point. It's almost VITA time — Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, including back taxes to 2017. Free tax prep (for income eligible). New this year: Tax prep for foreign students and faculty. SP is the only county in region that can issue an ITIN to people who want to pay taxes (e.g., to establish credit) but do not have a SSN. SP offers financial coaching, credit building. For existing clients, rent assistance.

**Kara** asked for resources for immigrants/refugees. Maureen named International Rescue Committee, Lao Family Community Development and Upwardly Global (for professionals). **Monie** shared Refugee and Immigrant Transitions (Oakland).

**Serene** shared the [WDBCCC Job Seeker Services](#) link. Fill out form to be contacted for WIOA program. WIOA = Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

**Leonard** requested that Lesley Garcia call him a (415) 517-5143.

**Posted to chat:** Request for update on new funding/programs at SHELTER, Inc. Not always sure how to refer people. **Jaime:** Coordinated Entry always works – 211, Care Center or CORE – but if there is a special way to refer to new programs, please share.

**Andrea:** SHELTER, Inc. has shelters, prevention services, rapid rehousing (RRH), permanent supportive housing (PSH). Use Coordinated Entry for all of those. For **Eviction Prevention: (925) 388-1038**. There is also small RRH program does not utilize Coordinated Entry: It helps those who are literally homeless by paying one-time deposit and/or rent. We have a lot of capacity but recipients need to be self-sufficient and continue to pay rent. [andrea.foti@shelterinc.org](mailto:andrea.foti@shelterinc.org)

**EVERYONE:**

Please fill in information about your organization and programs so we can develop a [Resource List](#).

**CONTACTS:**

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