



**Plumas-Sierra Counties CoC
Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes
August 22, 2023
10:00am**

**Chair: Tracey Ferguson
Vice Chair: Cathy Rahmeyer
Secretary: Aimee Heaney
Membership Director: Laurie Marsh
At-Large: Vacant**

*The Plumas-Sierra Counties CoC Advisory Board welcomes you to its meetings,
which are regularly held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00AM.
Your interest is encouraged and appreciated.*

Locations: **555 Main Street, Quincy (Plumas Planning & Building Conference Room)**
591 Main Street, Quincy (Plumas Crisis Intervention & Resource Center)
706 Mill Street, Loyalton (Sierra County Wellness Center)
~~**303 2nd Street, Marysville (Yuba County Public Library)**~~



REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS: *In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (530) 283-6170. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. Auxiliary aids and services are available for people with disabilities.*

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at **10:07am**.

Voting members present were Tracey Ferguson, Aimee Heaney, Laurie Marsh, and Cathy Rahmeyer.

2. Additions to or Deletions from the Agenda

None were submitted.

3. Introductions

The chair welcomed the following guests and incoming board members: Sharon Sousa, incoming chair, and Kristy Pierson, Plumas County Behavioral Health (PCBH), Lori Beatley, Plumas County Public Health Agency (PCPHA) EMS Manager; Ashley Achter, Plumas County Department of Social Services (PCDSS), APS Supervisor, and Linda Judge, incoming secretary.

4. Public Comments

Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Advisory Board on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Board. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes.

No public comments were submitted.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 25, 2023, Regular Meeting

Advisory Board members reviewed the regular meeting minutes from July 25, 2023. No changes were recommended. Cathy Rahmeyer moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Aimee Heaney seconded. The motion passed.

6. Discussion

A. NorCal CoC Executive Board Meeting Updates (Plumas and Sierra Counties)

i. Interim Collaborative Applicant (City of Redding approved by Executive Board)

Discussion: Shasta County has been the administrative lead agency (LA) for the NorCal CoC through their Community Action Agency (CAA). In the spring, the BOS of Shasta County moved to reorganize their housing under the larger HHS department. All administrative time funding was used up due to a Shasta County audit, etc. Shasta County will no longer be the NorCal LA, though they will continue through December for HMIS/CE administration. City of Redding will be the Collaborative Applicant (CA).

They have played an active role in reducing homelessness. The collaborative application is due 09/28/23. This is how we get funded through HUD, with approx. \$400,000 per year, and we need an entity, either city, county, or other agency to provide this service. PCIRC, PCBH, and Sierra County BH all have HMIS licenses. These entities provide enrolled participants' data on their homeless services. HMIS and CE are threshold requirements for HUD, inclusive of CoC completing 10-12 activities that we must do for funding – HUD doesn't require a lead agency, but the CA is usually the identified lead agency.

ii. HMIS Lead and System Administrator (United Way of Northern California approved by Executive Board)

They have stepped up and are now providing this role, with assistance from Shasta County through the end of this year. Modoc County has volunteered to host on their website, and Siskiyou County has volunteered to handle the agenda and minutes for the CoC Executive Board (EB). It is not clear who will take over PIT committee, etc., as required for the HUD Point in Time count conducted in January.

iii. Shasta Health and Human Services Agency Roles (HMIS/CE Committee assistance in transition and existing grant contract management and monitoring through December 31, 2023)

iv. "Lead Agency" Entity and Roles

v. PIT Committee

vi. Executive Board Roles (Prepare Agendas and Minutes and Website Hosting)

vii. Budget and Funding

1. NorCal CoC Executive Board approved redistribution of HHAP 3 additional funds in the amount \$117,584.31 for Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead and System Administrator

2. County participation agreements

For FY2023-24, no one has paid the county share to help fund lead agency for admin support. Who will the parties be, and what is the fair share? There will be PA contracts drawn up to include what is covered and cost. HUD states you have to demonstrate capacity to split off into a smaller CoC to meet the roles and responsibilities of the CoC. No decisions have been made. HUD window is Jan-Mar to apply for CoC reorganization. We are curious about this opportunity. This may be an option if the PAs don't work out. Each county needs one CoC, but there can be multiple counties under one. Can the LA be a non-profit?

7. New Business/Action Items

- A. Physical and/or virtual attendance and comment by members of the public, participant members, and voting members – discussion and possible action

Post-COVID, the Brown Act requirements reverted back to in-person meetings, with locations posted on the agenda. Counties were told by LA that we have to go back to in-person all the time. In the end, it's at the discretion of the board. The EB asked Shasta County counsel whose opinion was that either way is valid, and we never received that update. This advisory board is going to make our own decision about this. How do we want to move forward? Sharon Sousa stated that she would move for the meeting to be a hybrid. Laurie Marsh stated that they prefer a hybrid and to maintain a space in Sierra County. Sharon Sousa confirmed that PCBH can handle the virtual link, while a physical meeting space will be at PCIRC for Plumas County and Loyalton for Sierra County, with recurring meetings to be on the 4th Tuesday at 10:00am.

Sharon Sousa moved to hold hybrid virtual and physical meeting locations, at PCIRC in Quincy and at the Wellness Center in Loyalton, and that PCBH will set up the meeting link. Cathy Rahmeyer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- B. Recommendation to PIT Committee for January 2024 PIT count to conduct both sheltered and unsheltered counts or sheltered only count – discussion and possible action

Cathy Rahmeyer stated that Plumas County does both. Lassen County only wants to count sheltered. Laurie Marsh for Sierra County does both, however if they do only a count of sheltered individuals, there won't be any listed, as Sierra County does not provide sheltering services. However, next year, with the navigation center open, there will be a sheltered count to include.

Tracey Ferguson motioned to adopt conducting both a sheltered and unsheltered PIT counts in January 2024. Cathy Rahmeyer seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- C. Addressing Homelessness (standing item)

PCIRC: Cathy Rahmeyer stated that trusses are up in Phase II building, the navigation center and the shelter; Phase I was the front house remodel; and Ohana Village will be behind it. 26 cabins will be developed for transitional housing (TH), and the shelter will have beds.

Community Resiliency Centers: Plumas County is applying for this for Dixie fire recovery; Cathy Rahmeyer wanted to apply for the Portola Resource Center under Plumas County, however they can apply under the City of Portola. This could assist in the renovation of the existing PCIRC site and the church located next to the Family Resource Center, on

the same lot. Lori Beatley asked if the Resource Center could be a part of a County cooling center and clean air location for residents during extreme heat events and fires. The Ohana House is now vacant and available for purchase. Phase II is enclosed, but there is no target date for the opening of the navigation center and shelter.

PCBH: Sharon Sousa explained that in the next 3 years, if the Governor's plan for MHSA realignment is approved, MHSA will transition to all or most of the funding to be used for homeless/housing of SMI population. The Director added that they are contracting through Plumas District Hospital (PDH) for therapy services at their Greenville clinic site. The owner of the old site of the Wellness Center in Greenville is not making it available for rebuilding. PCBH would have to lease a building from a 3rd party. Any planning is contingent upon the Governor's reform, and PCBH is asking Plumas County residents to vote no on the reform ballot proposition. 65% of our MHSA funds would then go towards homelessness services. It will hurt the county, because it will severely restrict what PCBH can provide – including wellness centers, children's services, and Workforce, Education and Training program loan forgiveness to retain behavioral health staff, etc.

Roddy Mac, the retired former director of Environmental Alternatives (EA), spoke at PCBH Commission meeting voicing opposition to the County's permanent supportive housing project, stating this will conflict with EA's service model. Additionally, EA is a partner in providing services to PCBH clients in transitional housing and case management support.

Kristy Pierson states that Dana Nowling at PRS will be providing a community training in November, an anti-NIMBY and stigma reduction training and 5150 hold requirements, so that the public understands that people living with a serious mental illness (SMI) have rights, and that mental illness is not a crime.

Laurie Marsh stated that they may want to provide this to Sierra County residents as well if there is not a virtual opportunity for the training.

Transitional housing units will be up and running – education to counter NIMBYism will be necessary.

Public Health: Lori Beatley responded to the question of the PCPHA directorship – is there a new director on the horizon? Not yet. Tina Venable, director of nursing, speaks about PCPHA services, including their home visiting program, the Parents as Teachers curriculum, through Plumas First 5, up to age 5, but they can provide services up to adolescence. Cathy Rahmeyer has PCIRC families in mind to refer to PCPHA.

DSS: Ashley Achter stated that their clients who are experiencing homelessness are referred to PCIRC. HomeSafe program for seniors is used to keep them housed.

IMBY – Cathy Rahmeyer stated there is zero opposition to the shelter, navigation center, and the Ohana Village TH spaces. PCIRC supports the county's project for their permanent supportive housing (PSH) location.

RCHCD has been asked to present to our BOS; Sheriff Johns has concerns due to their low staffing availability. Aimee Heaney stated that low staffing of PCSO should not negate a potential solution for PSH of SMI population and offering additional low-income housing units. Supportive housing will help to lower incidence of crises in this population, given the right amount of case management and other supportive services.

D. New Member Applications (standing item)

- a. Tina Venable, Plumas County Public Health

Cathy Rahmeyer motioned to approve, and Aimee Heaney seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

8. Committee Appointments (standing item)

None were submitted.

9. Requests for Letters of Support (standing item)

None were submitted.

10. Committee/Workgroup Updates

- A. PIT Committee – January planning – The PIT count will still occur the 3rd week in Jan. It is too early for planning.
- B. HMIS/CEP Committee – United Way is coming on board.

11. Agency Updates

None

12. County Updates

None

13. Discussion Items for Next Meeting

- Continued reorganization of the Executive Board level
- Updated roster to distribute
- Update on PSH project and setting a date for public meeting/BOS presentation by RCHCD

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Cathy Rahmeyer and seconded by Aimee Heaney.

The chair adjourned the meeting at **11:39am**.

Next Meeting: September 26, 2023 (10:00AM)

If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec.12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.