



**Siskiyou County Advisory Board Meeting
July 5, 2023
1:30pm – 3:00pm
Red Oak Room, Behavioral Health, 2060 Campus Drive, Yreka**

1. Call to Order/Quorum Established/Introductions

Duane Kegg, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:35pm. A quorum was established.

Present: Members Dr. Collard, Duane Kegg, Mark Gilman, Trish Barbieri, Christina Brown, Denise Patterson, Sarah Springfield, Nancy Ogren, Michelle O’Gorman, and Michael Aiuto. Participants/public attendees Emily Tuholski, Susan Cervelli, Cal Conklin, Ali Kutzer, Maddelyn Bryan, Wendy Longwell, and Alexandra Tadros.

Zoom: Member Sara Spence and participant Lisa O’Connell

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June (Attachment A)

Mark Gilman motioned to approve the minutes from June 7, 2023. Nancy Ogren seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments (limited to 3 mins. per comment)

Cal Conklin remarked that, for the first time, he had witnessed a person experiencing homeless picking up trash on the hill. Mark noted that the jail approved the use of community hours for cleaning up encampments.

Wendy Longwell introduced herself as representing the Disability Action Center. She explained that Partnership HealthPlan contracted her organization to provide CalAIM services. The Center serves eight counties, including Siskiyou. Currently, the closest office is in Redding, but they are working to locate an office space in Siskiyou County. Wendy described the services available, including durable medical equipment and voice options for persons with speech impediments.

Duane Kegg shared that he attended the most recent meeting with people living on the hill. He said they discussed medical concerns, fire safety, trash cleanup, and finding ways to share their personal stories with the public. Mike Aiuto observed that an increasing number of people showed up at each successive meeting. He emphasized the concerns that persons experiencing homelessness have about their image and how the broader community discusses them on Facebook. Members commented on the development of an increasingly positive relationship between local organizations and people experiencing homelessness.



Denise Patterson provided the new address for the Yreka Food Bank (1249 main street, Yreka) which is open for business again.

4. Committee Updates

Maddelyn Bryan communicated that there were no updates from the HMIS Committee. Duane noted that the last regularly scheduled PIT Committee meeting had been cancelled. Wendy asked if there was any resource fair for individuals experiencing homeless and described Redding's annual resource fair called Project Connect. Sarah Springfield replied that Youth Empowerment Siskiyou planned to host an event on July 31.

5. Discussion

a. Lead Agency notice and future of CoC (Attachment B)—Dr. Collard

Dr. Collard confirmed that the other members had also received a copy of the "notice of termination" from Shasta County who would no longer act as the Lead Agency. She explained that a representative from HUD was helping the Executive Board to develop a transition plan, highlighting that the Collaborative Application was the most pressing concern. Shasta County has agreed to provide HMIS administration through December. Dr. Collard expressed uncertainty whether all seven counties would remain in the current CoC as they have the option to leave. She shared that it would be a heavy lift for Siskiyou County HHS to create a new CoC and it would be beyond the Agency's capacity to act as a lead for other counties. Wendy disclosed that the CoC members in Shasta County seem to be more interested in finding a new Lead Agency than splitting into different CoCs.

6. New Business

Members did not have any new business to discuss.

7. County Updates

a. Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Grant—Dr. Collard

Dr. Collard announced that Behavioral Health received the notice of award for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing grant. They intend to use this grant for the Pallet Shelters. The next step for the project involves Yreka City finalizing their decision on the proposed location.

b. Homekey—Duane Kegg

Duane stated that the City Council voted unanimously to approve the Homekey project. They hope to convert a hotel into the Ascent Apartments. The City selected Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation to be the developer.



c. Beacon of Hope—Duane Kegg/Michelle O’Gorman

Michelle O’Gorman announced that the Beacon of Hope shelter would open on November 1. This project was mostly created through volunteer efforts. She expressed gratitude to the Karuk Tribe for their generous grant. She stated that the shelter would have fourteen beds. Individuals can stay for up to 30 days or longer if they enroll in programs. No one on Megan’s law will be accepted and individuals must pass a breathalyzer test for admittance. The shelter will provide separate rooms for men and women.

d. Public Engagement—Duane Kegg/Ali Kutzer

Duane described his various presentations on housing efforts to the City Council, the Siskiyou County Patriots, and other community groups. He felt the presentations were well received by the public. Duane added that he would be interviewed on Jefferson Public Radio next Tuesday.

Ali provided an explanation of the draft plan for public engagement. She noted that the current document is merely a framework and rough model. Members expressed approval of the document. Discussion ensued about where to promote and disseminate information in the absence of a local paper. Ali requested a high-resolution logo from each organization. Cal commented that older generations may prefer printed materials as opposed to social media or other online platforms. Ali inquired as to the frequency of releasing new materials. Members agreed upon a monthly schedule. She informed members that she would be in contact to collect information about their projects when featured.

8. Discussion Items for Next Meeting

Duane requested the following items: public engagement, discussion of possible resource fair, and Project Basecamp update.

9. Adjournment

Dr. Collard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:55pm. Denise seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting
August 2, 2023
1:30pm-3:00pm

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