



# EASTERN SIERRA CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) MEETING

## March 20, 2023, 1:00-2:30 PM

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Inyo County Health and Human Services

Zoom: **Join on your computer** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86269871470> Meeting ID: 862 6987 1470 Dial by your location +1 669 444 9171

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## AGENDA

**Public Notice:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Inyo County HHS (760) 873-3305. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable Agency staff to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

### 1.0 Call Meeting to Order and Introductions

Board attendance: Marilyn Mann, Anna Scott, Kathy Peterson, and Patricia Robertson – Absent: Jennifer Kreitz, and Nichole Williamson

Other Attendees: Chief Standridge, Melissa Best-Baker, Sherry O'Connell, Amanda Greenberg, Morningstar Willis-Waggoner, Darcia Blackdeer-Lent, Michael Godby, Isaiah Rich-Wimmer, Amy Wyatt, Scott Thurmond, Cathreen Richards, Holly DeVincent, Sara Alden, Heidi Dougherty, Anastasiia Budnyk, Stephanie Jackson

### 2.0 Public Comment: This time is set aside to receive public comment on matters not calendared on the agenda.

Ms. Robertson announced that Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH) is reaching out via social media to individuals who have been permanently displaced due to structural issues in Mammoth and other areas in the region. Asking for referrals so that MLH can help with identifying housing for those who are made homeless by the collapse or compromised structures at high elevations of the region due to snow loads.

### 3.0 Approval of Minutes (Action Item): Review and consider approval of draft minutes from October 17, 2022 and November 21, 2022

Ms. Scott explained that approval of minutes from the October 17, 2022 meeting was tabled during the November meeting. After discussion, the group agreed that board members need not have been present at a particular meeting to vote on approval of the minutes. With that, Ms. Mann made a motion to approve the October 17, 2022 meeting minutes, and Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. Ms. Scott, Ms. Mann, Ms. Robertson, and M. Peterson voted Aye.

Ms. Robertson made a motion to approve the minutes from November 21, 2022, and Ms. Mann seconded the motion. Ms. Scott, Ms. Mann, Ms. Robertson, and M. Peterson voted Aye

### 4.0 Governance Charter Workgroup (Informational Item): Update on annual Governance Charter revisions

Ms. Scott explained that the Governance Charter was reviewed by Abt Associates, the assigned HUD Technical Assistance provider and they provided written comments and identified edits and additions that should be made to the charter to comply with HUD requirements. The assigned CoC Governance Charter Workgroup met on March 1, 2023 to review the suggested edits. Next

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steps: Inyo will resubmit the revised charter to Abt for additional review and schedule an in-person meeting with Abt in late spring to review for final approval.

- 5.0 ESCoC Board Retreat (Discussion Item):** Receive information on a proposed Board retreat for strategic planning activities and provide direction to staff for scheduling event.

Ms. Scott proposed a strategic planning retreat with the ESCoC Board to help inform future service activities, grant applications and strategies for continuing to reduce homelessness in Inyo, Mono and Alpine counties. Thurmond Consulting has offered to facilitate the retreat. Ms. Peterson expressed concern over conducting strategic planning while Board membership is so low, stating that it does not seem right to do that type of planning without additional stakeholder input. Ms. Scott explained that the intent would not be to set a formal strategic plan that the Board is committed to for years to come, but to get a high-level understanding of best practices and strategies that are happening in other parts of the state to help us gain clarity on opportunities to meet the ambitious outcome goals we committed to in the HHAP 4 application. Ms. Peterson indicated that neither of the dates in May would work for her and Ms. Robertson indicated that she would only be available on May 5. Ms. Scott will poll the Board to identify a date and schedule the planning session with Thurmond Consulting.

- 6.0 HIC/PIT Count Debrief (Discussion Item):** Update regarding HIC/PIT activities and reporting  
Ms. Wyatt from Thurmond Consulting announced that the portal for HIC/PIT data entry has opened, and the data will need to be submitted in mid-April. She is working with Ms. Braithwaite from Inyo County to input PIT data and clarified that the housing inventory count is just beginning. Ms. Braithwaite will be sending out surveys to housing providers to collect the data necessary for submission.

- 7.0 HHAP 1, 2 (Action Item):** Receive update on HHAP Round 1 and Round 2 funds and

Ms. Scott and Ms. Mann provided an update on the transfer of the HHAP round 1 and 2 funding from IMACA to Inyo County. Ms. Mann explained that the agreement that HCD sent to Inyo adds Inyo County to the original contract with IMACA, which makes Inyo responsible for activities and expenditures that occurred when IMACA was collaborative applicant. Ms. Mann stated that in early conversations with HCD, her understanding was that the original contract with IMACA would end and a new contract with the County of Inyo would begin. Ms. Peterson remembered the same. The contract in its current form is not something Inyo County is comfortable with, the county is engaging their legal counsel and HCD to negotiate a different agreement, if possible. Ms. Scott pointed out that the agreement in its current form also keeps IMACA obligated, and Ms. Bacheloux from IMACA confirmed that IMACA's intent is to no longer be a party to the contracts with HCD.



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1. consider ratification of letter indicating financial support of Access Apartments in the amount of \$15,000

Ms. Scott presented a letter that was signed by Chairperson Kreitz in February, confirming that HHAP 1 and 2 funding is obligated for support of the Access Apartments project. Mr. Thurmond suggested that in the future, we state the purpose of the funding contribution more broadly. Ms. Peterson made a motion to ratify the letter and Ms. Mann seconded the motion. Ms. Scott, Ms. Mann, and M. Peterson voted Aye. Ms. Robertson abstained.

2. Provide direction to staff to obligate additional funds under HHAP 2

Ms. Scott informed the CoC of a May deadline to obligate at least 50% of the HHAP 2 funds. Ms. Peterson and Ms. Roberson expressed a desire to continue to support the ongoing housing projects to ensure they reach completion.

Ms. Scott pointed out that with letters already approved by the CoC Board for Innsbruck, plus the letter for Access Apartments, >50% of the HHAP 2 funding is obligated. However, the letters state that the obligation is from both HHAP 1 and 2. Ms. Scott alerted the CoC that revised letters that clearly delineate funding from HHAP 1 and HHAP 2 may be needed and will consult further with Thurmond Consulting before making changes.

### 8.0 HHAP 3 (Informational Item): Receive update on HHAP Round 3 funding

Ms. Scott explained that a contract between HCD and the County of Inyo was executed for HHAP Round 3 funding on January 4, 2023. Funds have been allocated to the County of Inyo as the Collaborative Applicant. Accounting of expenditures will be provided in future quarters (no expenditures submitted to date).

### 9.0 HHAP 4 (Informational Item): Receive update on HHAP Round 4 application

Ms. Scott explained that the application for HHAP 4 was submitted November 29, 2023. Since submission, the baseline data was changed to reflect 2022 PIT data. This resulted in the county having to make a change to the goal regarding the overall decrease in the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Ms. Scott also announced that the total funding allocation for CoC 530 is \$360,701.40 and suggested that the Board designate a workgroup to develop the budget. Ms. Robertson and Ms. Peterson pointed out that the funding allocation is quite small when considering the cost of constructing affordable housing solutions and expressed support for budgeting as much as possible in the Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing category. Ms. Scott indicated that she had enough information to draft a budget for future CoC Board approval.

### 10.0 Collaborative Applicant Planning Grants (Informational Item): Receive an update regarding 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 planning grants



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Ms. Scott explained that the 2021 Planning Grant has been transferred from IMACA to Inyo. Inyo has not drawn down the funding but will provide accounting as the funds are expended in future ESCoC meetings. The 2022 Planning Grant Application was submitted in September 2022 and no funds have been expended for that allocation to date. Ms. Wyatt added that HUD has not announced awards at this time, and that announcement usually comes quite late, so funds are not yet available for expenditure.

Ms. Wyatt added that she has registered Inyo County as the Collaborative Applicant for the 2023 Planning Grant. That grant application period will likely open in June or July 2023.

#### **11.0 HHIP Implementation (Informational Item):** Receive update on HHIP implementation with Managed Medi-Cal Plans

Ms. Scott explained that both Anthem Blue Cross and California Health and Wellness, the Managed Medi-Cal Plans for Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties, have provided HHIP agreements which will allow Inyo to draw HHIP funds on behalf of the CoC region wide. The next step is to have those agreements approved by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Peterson asked if these funds could be used to help cover the cost of the contract with Thurmond Consulting. Ms. Mann explained that Social Services funding is currently being used to pay for that contract and that HHIP could potentially fund a portion of that contract. Mr. Thurmond pointed out that the administrative funds in each HHAP grant could also be used.

Ms. O'Connell asked if there is any funding available through the CoC to help fund the shelter that the Salvation Army has opened during periods of inclement weather. The CoC Board discussed the focus, at this time, on continuing projects that were already in progress when the responsibility of Collaborative Applicant was transferred from IMACA to Inyo County. Ms. Mann stated that there may be opportunities to contract with CBOs in the future and that Ms. O'Connell's input would be valuable as the CoC moves forward with future funding opportunities.

#### **12.0 Updated ESCoC Logo (Action Item):** Consider approval of new ESCoC logo design on official ESCoC documents

Ms. Scott presented an updated logo format that was developed by a graphic designer in the Summer of 2022, specifically so that the formatting will be useable in social media platforms. Ms. Peterson asked what the logo for Eastern Sierra Community Housing will look like and Ms. Robertson confirmed that the ESCH logo will be different enough that the two will not be confused. Ms. Peterson made a motion to approve the logo, and Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. Ms. Scott, Ms. Mann, Ms. Robertson, and Ms. Peterson voted Aye.

#### **13.0 HMIS/CES Update (Informational Item):** Receive an update on HMIS and CES agreements and access for partner agencies

Ms. Best-Baker explained that HMIS and SEC policies and procedures are drafted and that she hopes to present them in a future meeting before the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Robertson asked



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for clarification about the shift back to using the SPDAT when entering clients into the CES. Ms. Best-Baker explained that the tool the CoC had adopted to replace the SPDAT had been developed in coordination with the Change Well project to specifically meet the requirements of Social Services housing funds and Inyo had discovered that it did not meet all of HUD's requirements. For now, the SPDAT is in use for prioritizing clients in the CES and the other tool is used specifically for housing solutions that are funded with Social Services funding. Ms. Peterson pointed out that the SPDAT also has problems and is not meeting our needs regionally. Ms. Best-Baker agreed to discuss further modifications of the tool during the next Change Well meeting. Ms. Greenberg asked that Mono County Behavioral Health be included in the development of the tool and CES policies and procedures, as they would like to enter consumers into the CES and want to make sure confidentiality requirements are appropriately addressed.

#### **14.0 Roundtable**

#### **15.0 Future Agenda Items**

1. Accounting of Collaborative Applicant planning grants By IMACA (2019, 2020) and Inyo County (2020 and future funding cycles)
2. Update on ESCoC Board Vacancies – pending updated Governance Charter

#### **16.0 Next meeting**

Ms. Scott suggested a monthly meeting cadence and will poll the CoC Board to set the next meeting date.

#### **17.0 Adjournment**