

**COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 19, 2019**



*Audio for this meeting can be found online at: <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>*

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Chair Jonathan at 10:02 am.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**Members Present**

Councilmember Emmanuel Martinez  
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik  
Councilmember Elaine Holmes  
Councilmember John Pena  
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan, Chair  
Councilmember Christy Holstege, Vice Chair  
Councilmember Charles Townsend  
Greg Rodriguez  
Director Carole Rogers

**Agency**

City of Coachella  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Desert  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
Riverside County District 4  
Desert Healthcare District

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Julie Bornstein  
Darla Burkett  
Angelina Coe  
Jennie Rayner  
Julie Reay

**Agency**

Coachella Valley Housing Coalition  
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission  
Shelter from the Storm  
Health to Hope  
HomeAid Inland Empire

**Members & Ex-Officios Not Present**

Mayor Dale Reynolds  
Mayor Mark Carnevale  
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pye  
Linda Barrack  
Kristina Starkey

**Agency**

City of Blythe  
City of Cathedral City  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
Martha's Village & Kitchen  
The Salvation Army

**Support Staff Present**

Charlie McClendon  
Chris Christensen  
Casey Jackson  
Tanya Torno  
Natalie Komuro  
Marcus Cannon  
Cheryll Dahlin  
Erica Felci  
Gary Leong  
Jodi Adams  
Libby Carlson  
Tom Kirk

**Agency**

City of Cathedral City  
Desert Healthcare District  
Path of Life Ministries  
Riverside County Housing Authority  
Riverside County Homelessness Solutions  
Riverside University Health System  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG

**Others Present**

Jay Virata  
Marcus Aleman  
Lindsay Sisti  
Walker Beverly  
Erick Lemus  
Jeff Green  
Tom Cox  
Chad Austin  
Bruce Yeager  
Donna Craig  
Josh Jelmberg  
Penny Jelmberg  
Rosa Torres  
Tracy Starr  
Jacqueline Portilla  
Julie Jeffery  
Maria Lopez  
Rhonda Latkovic  
Judy Shea  
Patrick Mahon  
Brian King  
Christian Jelmberg  
Chris Elguera  
Richard Finn  
Sandra Curry  
Stu Berger  
Elvira Herrera  
Kephyan Sheppard  
Triana Sheppard  
Ali Baba  
Joe Caffery  
Kayla Bentley  
Kim Floyd  
Nancy Gonzalez

**Agency**

City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
Riverside County Housing Authority  
Advancing Steps  
California Partnership  
California Partnership  
CVRM  
CVWD  
Desert Aids Project  
Desert Healthcare District  
Jelmberg Team  
Jelmberg Team  
Martha's Village & Kitchen  
Martha's Village & Kitchen  
Molina Healthcare  
Olive Crest Safe Families for Children  
Path of Life Ministries  
Saint George GO Church  
Shea's Veteran Center  
Stearn's Lending  
Street Life Project  
Street Life Project  
Street Life Project  
Veterans for Peace  
Well in the Desert  
Well in the Desert  
Wings of Freedom  
Word of Life  
Word of Life

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Led by Councilmember Townsend.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Christian Jelmberg, Street Life Project, gave an update on the tiny homes project.
- The following people addressed the Committee in support of the tiny homes project: Brian King, Patrick Mahon, Kim Floyd, Erick Lemus, Elvira Hernandez, Jeff Green, Richard Finn, and Rhonda Latkovic.
- Judy Shea, Shea's Veteran Center, gave an update on the facility.

5. **MEMBER/DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

- Tom Kirk announced Cheryl Dahlin's resignation from CVAG and thanked her for her work.

- Chair Jonathan recognized Cheryll Dahlin and thanked her for her contributions.
- Tom Kirk announced that Greg Rodriguez has been hired by CVAG, effective August 2019.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Approve the May 15, 2019 Homeless Committee Meeting Minutes**

**B. Approve Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding with Desert Healthcare District**  
Cheryll Dahlin noted revisions to the MOU Amendment made by the Desert Healthcare District.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MARTINEZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TOWNSEND TO APPROVE THE MAY 15, 2019 HOMELESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AND AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT AS REVISED.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 3 ABSENT.**

Councilmember Reynolds	Absent
Mayor Carnevale	Absent
Councilmember Martinez	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Pye	Absent
Councilmember Muzik	Aye
Councilmember Holmes	Aye
Councilmember Pena	Aye
Councilmember Jonathan	Aye
Councilmember Holstege	Aye
Councilmember Townsend	Aye
Greg Rodriguez	Aye
Director Rogers	Aye

**7. DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**A. Homelessness Collaborative Planning Update** – Greg Rodriguez, Office of County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, reported on Collaborative planning activities including systems mapping, diversion training, marketing and public awareness campaign, expanded 24-hour resource hotline hours, meeting with National CORE regarding a navigation center in the Western Coachella Valley, and engaging faith-based community organizations.

Councilmember Holmes recommended looking at Indio’s quality of life team as a model for engaging the faith-based community.

**B. Summer Cooling Centers in the Western Coachella Valley** – Greg Rodriguez reported on efforts to set up overnight cooling centers in Palm Springs, Cathedral City, and Desert Hot Springs in order to provide emergency relief during summer. Coachella Valley Rescue Mission has been identified to run the cooling centers due to the organization’s expertise and capacity to get the sites up and running quickly. Operating costs are estimated at \$250,000 for 3 months, including \$75,000 in staffing. Given that the centers tend to be used by shelter-resistant homeless individuals, Greg noted the potential for using the sites as access points to identify participants for the ‘25 Familiar Faces’ project funded by a HEAP grant.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLSTEGE TO ALLOCATE CV HOUSING FIRST FUNDS TO STAFF SUMMER EMERGENCY COOLING CENTERS.**

The motion was withdrawn.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER TOWNSEND AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLMES TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH COACHELLA VALLEY RESCUE MISSION TO PROVIDE STAFFING FOR SUMMER EMERGENCY COOLING CENTERS IN WESTERN COACHELLA VALLEY THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2019, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 3 ABSENT.**

Councilmember Reynolds	Absent
Mayor Carnevale	Absent
Councilmember Martinez	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Pye	Absent
Councilmember Muzik	Aye
Councilmember Holmes	Aye
Councilmember Pena	Aye
Councilmember Jonathan	Aye
Councilmember Holstege	Aye
Councilmember Townsend	Aye
Greg Rodriguez	Aye
Director Rogers	Aye

- C. CV Housing First Contract Update** – Cheryll Dahlin provided background on CV Housing First, an update on year-to-date outcomes by Path of Life for FY18/19, and an overview of the Amendment #4 to extend the term through the summer while a competitive procurement process for CV Housing First services is conducted. Cheryll clarified that the total proposed budget for Amendment #4 is \$450,000, including \$200,000 rolled over from FY18/19.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MARTINEZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TOWNSEND TO APPROVE AMENDMENT #4 TO THE CONTRACT WITH PATH OF LIFE MINISTRIES, EXTENDING THE TERM THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2019, WITH A TOTAL BUDGET NOT TO EXCEED \$450,000, INCLUDING AN ADDITION OF \$250,000.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 3 ABSENT.**

Councilmember Reynolds	Absent
Mayor Carnevale	Absent
Councilmember Martinez	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Pye	Absent
Councilmember Muzik	Aye
Councilmember Holmes	Aye
Councilmember Pena	Aye
Councilmember Jonathan	Aye
Councilmember Holstege	Aye
Councilmember Townsend	Aye
Greg Rodriguez	Aye
Director Rogers	Aye

## 8. **INFORMATION**

### A. Attendance Record

### B. Ex Officio Updates

- Julie Borenstein, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition reported on a college scholarship program for clients.
- Marcus Cannon, Riverside County Behavioral Health, reported on a new behavioral health specialist team in Palm Desert; recruitment for a 'ride along clinical therapist' in Indio; and mental health urgent care in Palm Springs, available 24/7 and open to minors.
- Casey Jackson, Path of Life, reported on CEO recruitment.
- Natalie Komuro, Deputy County Executive Officer – Homelessness Solutions, reported on a video tweeted by Barbara Poppe on June 18 providing historical context for the current affordable housing situation; efforts to engage Blythe in regional participation; progress on encampment protocols; and Riverside County presence at the national homelessness conference in July.
- Angelina Coe, Shelter from the Storm, reported on transportation issues, hospital discharges, and an additional facility set to open this summer.
- Darla Burkett, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, reported on 60 people receiving employment and housing via CVRM; 50 additional beds available in July; shelter and support in Blythe; and the opening of a 13<sup>th</sup> transitional home.
- Rosa Torres, Martha's Village & Kitchen, reported that the cooling center is open; and emergency shelter is at full capacity; 90% of clients exit to permanent housing; 500 clients have been served at the Palm Springs office, with 76 receiving employment; and 12 children graduated from preschool in June.

### C. CV Housing First Report, May 2019

### D. FY19/20 Homelessness Committee Meeting Schedule

### E. State Budget and Funding Opportunities

### F. CVAG Homelessness Programs Financial Report

## 9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Jonathan sked staff to share information regarding the CARE/FERA financial assistance programs for low income households offering 18-30% discounts on utility bills.

Upcoming meetings:

- Executive Committee – June 24 at 4:30 pm
- General Assembly – June 24 at 6 pm
- Homelessness Committee – September 18 at 10 am

## 10. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Libby Carlson