



HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

**CVAG Conference Room
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

Members of the public may use the following link for listening access and ability to address the Homelessness Committee when called upon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86585993534?pwd=IlJoM5rZDn8viuCOp90wZa8RDbGBRC.1>

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128 US
Webinar ID: 865 8599 3534
Password: 372088**

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT VIA DIAL IN OPTION, PLEASE CALL 760-346-1127

Public comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Homelessness Committee prior to the meeting at cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Members of the public joining the meeting by Zoom can also provide comment by using the “raise hand” feature or hitting *9 on the phone keypad.

As a convenience to the public, CVAG provides a call-in option and internet-based option for members of the public to virtually observe and provide public comments at its meetings. Please note that, in the event of a technical issue disrupting the call-in or internet-based options, the meeting will continue unless otherwise required by law.

THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE. ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA. UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL ACTION ITEMS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair John Peña, Councilmember, City of La Quinta

2. **ROLL CALL** –

A. **Member Roster**

P4

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the first of two opportunities for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Homelessness Committee on items appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. At the discretion of the Chair, comments may be taken at the time items are presented. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

5. **CHAIR / COMMITTEE / CVAG STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024, meeting of the Homelessness Committee**

P5

6.1 **ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

7. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

A. **Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court and other Prop 1 investments** – Maurice Lyles, the Governor’s Office External Affairs’ Regional Director for Southern California

P10

Recommendation: Information

B. **CV Housing First’s 2024 Annual Report** – Candice Graff

P18

Recommendation: Receive and file the annual report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in 2024

C. **Appointment of Regional Representative to SCAG Policy Committee – Erica Felci** **P21**

Recommendation: Discuss and nominate a CVAG representative to SCAG’s Community, Economic and Human Development Committee

8. **INFORMATION**

A. Attendance Record **P22**

B. Updates from Ex Officio Members

C. Annual contributions to the CV Housing First Program **P23**

D. Unaudited Financial Statements for CV Housing First Program through December 31, 2024 **P25**

E. Alan Seman Bus Pass Program 2024 Annual Report **P26**

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the second opportunity for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Homelessness Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this Committee may do so at this time. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

ITEM 2A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
Member Roster
2024- 2025**



VOTING MEMBERS	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
City of Blythe	Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Coachella	Mayor Pro Tem Denise Delgado
Desert Healthcare District	Director Carole Rogers, RN
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Jan Pye
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Toper Taylor
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon – <u>Vice Chair</u>
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña – <u>Chair</u>
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Joe Pradetto
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Ron deHarte
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Mallotto
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members	
Pedro S.G. Rodriguez, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition	
Darla Burkett, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	
Vacant, Executive Director, Home Aid Inland Empire	
Samuel Hollenbeck, Chief Executive Officer, Martha’s Village and Kitchen	
Vacant, The Salvation Army	
Angelina Coe, Executive Director, Shelter from the Storm	

CVAG Staff
Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer
Candice Graff, Management Analyst

ITEM 6A

**Homelessness Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2024**



The audio file for this meeting can be found at: <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Raymond Gregory, City of Cathedral City, at 10 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in Palm Desert.
- 2. ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Blythe
City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
Desert Healthcare District
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 4
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez
Councilmember Raymond Gregory
Councilmember Denise Delgado
Director Carole Rogers, RN
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pye
Councilmember Kathleen Kelly
Mayor Pro Tem Ron deHarte
Councilmember Lynn Mallotto
Deputy Director Greg Rodriguez
Vice Chair Joseph Mirelez

Members and Ex-Officios Not Present

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition
Martha's Village and Kitchen
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Shelter from the Storm

Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
Councilmember Donna Griffith
Councilmember Waymond Fermon, *Vice Chair*
Mayor Pro Tem John Peña, *Chair*
Pedro S.G. Rodriguez
Samuel Hollenbeck
Darla Burkett
Angelina Coe

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Christian Jelmborg from Street Life Project addressed the committee regarding Street Life Project's efforts to address the homeless issues by providing services to get people back on their feet.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci announced the Chair and Vice Chair sent their regards for not being able to attend today's meeting due to conflicts, including the City of Indio's ribbon cutting ceremony for their new Public Safety Campus.

Ms. Felci highlighted Item 6F in the agenda and thanked the County for supporting the staff's efforts in applying for and being awarded the grant.

Ms. Felci noted there are some corrections that will be made to the minutes listed in the consent calendar that include clarification between members' titles and asked the committee to motion with noted corrections when approving the consent calendar.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ AND SECONDED BY TRIBAL VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR, INCLUDING CORRECTIONS TO MEMBER TITLES IN THE MEETING MINUTES.

- A. Approve the minutes of the June 12, 2024 meeting of the Homelessness Committee**
- B. Approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024 joint meeting of the Homelessness and Public Safety Committees**
- C. Reaffirm the Executive Director's authorities for the CV Housing First program, including resetting the CV 200 list and executing short-term leases for crisis stabilization units, such as hotels and apartments used for case management of clients**
- D. Receive and file the quarterly report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in the third quarter of 2024**
- E. Adopt CVAG's Legislative Platform for the next two-year legislative cycle**
- F. Authorize the Executive Director to execute the necessary agreements to accept \$116,094.32 in Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding for the CV Housing First outreach efforts**

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNCILMEMBER PRECKWINKLE	ABSENT
VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER DELGADO	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM PYE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER GRIFFITH	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	ABSENT
MAYOR PRO TEM PEÑA	ABSENT

COUNCILMEMBER KELLY	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM DEHARTE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER MALLOTTO	AYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

6.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Good Neighbor Policy for Homelessness Coordination

Ms. Felci presented the staff report and summarized the feedback from the Public Safety Committee’s discussion of this item.

Lengthy member discussion ensued. Members expressed interest in modifying the language to make it an encouragement for participants instead of a requirement of participants.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR PRO TEM DEHARTE AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR ROGERS TO APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS IN LANGUAGE THE MODEL RESOLUTION THAT REINFORCES THE COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS AND ESTABLISHES A GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY AMONG CVAG MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNCILMEMBER PRECKWINKLE	ABSENT
VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER DELGADO	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM PYE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER GRIFFITH	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	ABSENT
MAYOR PRO TEM PEÑA	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER KELLY	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM DEHARTE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER MALLOTTO	AYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

B. Annual Contributions to the CV Housing First Program

Ms. Felci presented the staff report and discussed the program’s budget.

Robust member discussion ensued about the increased contribution, impact of the program and budget needs. Members requested that staff provide additional budget details, including showing increase and anticipated allocations, to the City/ County/ Tribal Managers for input.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KELLY AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MEMBER JURISDICTIONS TO INCREASE THE CV HOUSING FIRST CONTRIBUTION TO \$125,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025/26 AND PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL INFLATIONARY ADJUSTMENTS

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNCILMEMBER PRECKWINKLE	ABSENT
VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER DELGADO	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM PYE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER GRIFFITH	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	ABSENT
MAYOR PRO TEM PEÑA	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER KELLY	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM DEHARTE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER MALLOTTO	AYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

C. Election of Homelessness Committee Officers

Executive Director Tom Kirk opened the floor for nominations.

Councilmember Kelly nominated Mayor Pro Tem Peña to remain Chair and Councilmember Fermon to remain Vice Chair. No other nominations were received.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KELLY AND SECONDED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ TO ELECT MAYOR PRO TEM JOHN PEÑA AS CHAIR AND COUNCILMEMBER WAYMOND FERMON AS VICE CHAIR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNCILMEMBER PRECKWINKLE	ABSENT
VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER DELGADO	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM PYE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER GRIFFITH	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	ABSENT
MAYOR PRO TEM PEÑA	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER KELLY	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM DEHARTE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER MALLOTTO	AYE

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ
VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ**

**AYE
AYE**

D. Countywide efforts to clean up homeless encampments

Greg Rodriguez, Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions' Deputy Director for Government Affairs and Community Engagement presented the staff report and update.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

8. INFORMATION

A. Attendance Record

B. Updates from Ex Officio Members

None.

C. Unaudited Financial Statements for CV Housing First Program through September 30, 2024

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Gregory adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado
CVAG Management Analyst

ITEM 7A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
February 19, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court and other Prop 1 investments

Contact: Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: The Homelessness Committee has previously received updates on the roll out of Gov. Gavin Newsom's Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court. The CARE Court, which was approved by the Legislature and then signed by the Governor in 2022, will allow courts to order CARE plans, which would require counties to provide comprehensive treatment to the most severely impaired and untreated Californians and hold patients accountable to following their treatment plans. The program will not be for every unhoused individual, but it is touted as a way to address those who have severe mental health issues such as schizophrenia. The roll out of the program was launched in phases starting in 2023, with Riverside County being among the first counties to implement the CARE Court.

The rollout of CARE courts is part of a larger overhaul of the services California is funding for those with mental health challenges and addiction. Proposition 1, which voters narrowly passed in the March 2024 election, expands treatment centers and supportive housing. It also created funding for local jurisdictions. Maurice Lyles, the Governor's Office of External Affairs' Regional Director for Southern California, will attend the February meeting to brief the Homelessness Committee on the implementation of programs and upcoming grant opportunities.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this update. CV Housing First staff will be working in conjunction with county staff to identify whether CV 200 clients should be considered for CARE Court or related programs.

Attachment: California Department of Health Care Services' Proposition 1 fact sheet



Proposition 1 Fact Sheet

Behavioral Health Transformation

This document represents the work of the California Department of Health Care Services in implementing Proposition 1, also known as "Behavioral Health Transformation," a key component of Governor Newsom's Mental Health for All Initiative (<https://www.mentalhealth.ca.gov/>). More information about the contributions of other agencies can be found via the California Department of Veterans Affairs and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The Issue



More than 1.2 million adults in California live with a serious mental illness, and **1 in 13 children** has a serious emotional disturbance.^[1]



82% of Californians experiencing homelessness reported having a serious mental health condition^[2], and **1 in 10 Californians** meet the criteria for a substance use disorder (SUD).^[3]



Shortages of behavioral health treatment sites contribute to the **growing crisis of homelessness and incarceration** among people with a mental health disorder.^[4]

The Solution: Proposition 1

California is transforming its entire mental health and SUD system. Advancing this effort, California voters in March 2024 passed Proposition 1, which includes the Behavioral Health Services Act (Senate Bill (SB) 326 (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB326)) (Eggman, Chapter 790, Statutes of 2023), and the \$6.4 billion Behavioral Health Bond (Assembly Bill (AB) 531 (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB531)) (Irwin, Chapter 789, Statutes of 2023) to support Californians living with the

most significant mental health and SUD needs. DHCS refers to the implementation of these changes as [Behavioral Health Transformation \(/BHT/Pages/home.aspx\)](/BHT/Pages/home.aspx).

Part 1: Behavioral Health Services Act

The Behavioral Health Services Act updates the Mental Health Services Act of 2004 by increasing and expanding access to the supports available to all Californians, ensuring people can get the help they need, when they need it, and in their community.

Key elements of the Behavioral Health Services Act:

- **Reforms behavioral health care funding** to include treatment, housing interventions, and behavioral health workforce support for individuals with SUDs, while continuing to prioritize services for people with the most significant behavioral health needs.
- Expands services to promote **prevention, early intervention, and treatment** for California's diverse population, with investments in innovative pilot programs.
- Focuses on **outcomes, accountability, and equity**.

Priority Populations:

Behavioral Health Services Act funding and programs will target people with a range of behavioral health needs, including SUDs. Behavioral Health Transformation recognizes that SUDs, mental health conditions, and homelessness are intertwined and must be addressed together to achieve the best outcomes.

The Behavioral Health Services Act also reaches priority populations who are disproportionately affected by mental health and SUD challenges and may have greater unmet needs. The Behavioral Health Services Act's priority populations are:

Eligible adults who are:

- Chronically homeless, experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness
- In, or are at risk of being in, the justice system
- Reentering their communities from prison or jail
- At risk of conservatorship pursuant to Proposition 1
- At risk of institutionalization

Eligible children and youth who are:

- Chronically homeless, experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness
- In, or at risk of being in, the juvenile justice system
- Reentering the community from a youth correctional facility
- In the child welfare system pursuant to Proposition 1
- At risk of institutionalization

Behavioral Health Services Act Funding Allocations:

The Behavioral Health Services Act modernizes funding to provide services to Californians with the most significant behavioral health needs.^[5]



- **35% Behavioral Health Services and Supports:** Includes early intervention; outreach and engagement; workforce; education and training; capital facilities and technological needs; and innovative pilots and projects.
 - A majority (51%) of this amount must be used for intervention in the early signs of mental illness or SUDs.
 - A majority (51%) of early intervention services and supports must be for people 25 years of age and younger.
- **35% Full-Service Partnerships:** Comprehensive and intensive care for people at any age with the most complex needs (also known as the "whatever it takes" model).
- **30% Housing:** Interventions to include rental subsidies, operating subsidies, shared housing, family housing for eligible children and youth, and the non-federal share of certain transitional rent.
 - Half of this amount (50%) is prioritized for housing interventions for the chronically homeless.
 - Up to 25% may be used for capital development.
 - Some exemptions may be available for small counties.

Counties will have the flexibility within the above funding areas to move up to 7% from one category into another, for a maximum of 14%. This allows counties to address their different local needs and priorities based on data and community input.

SUD Treatment:

The need for SUD services has increased and is often closely related to mental health conditions. **Expanding eligibility to include SUD helps to address unmet needs.** The Behavioral Health Services Act enables counties to fund these services alone or in combination with other state and federal funds to support the expansion of SUD services. Counties must use data to appropriately allocate funding between mental health and SUD treatment services as well as identify strategies to address disparities between them.

Early Intervention:

The Behavioral Health Services Act continues to interrupt the course of potential illness. DHCS, in consultation with the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (<https://mhsoac.ca.gov/>), counties, and stakeholders, is establishing a biennial **list of evidence-based practices and community-defined evidence practices for early intervention programs**. Counties must use a majority (51%) of behavioral health services and supports funds for early intervention services to assist in the early signs of mental illness or substance misuse. Most of these services and supports must serve individuals 25 years of age and younger.

Health Equity:

The Behavioral Health Services Act supports culturally responsive services that improve health and reduce health disparities for all:

- Reduces silos for planning and service delivery and sets clear principles.
- Requires stratified data and strategies for reducing health disparities in planning, services, and outcomes.
- Clearly advances community-defined practices as a key strategy for reducing health disparities and increasing community representation.

Accountability:

Counties are required to **submit integrated plans for Behavioral Health Services and Outcomes** and **Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Reports**. The plans and reports will include **data through the lens of health equity** to identify racial, ethnic, age, gender, and other demographic disparities and **inform disparity reduction efforts**.

Requirements	County Integrated Plan for Behavioral Health Services and Outcomes	County Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report
Submission frequency	Every three years	Annually

Content	<p>Must include all local, state, and federal behavioral health funding and services, a budget, alignment with goals and outcome measures, and workforce strategies.</p> <p>Must be informed by stakeholder input, population needs assessments, and local health jurisdiction collaboration.</p>	<p>Must include expenditures of all local, state, and federal behavioral health funding, unspent dollars, service utilization data and outcomes, with a health equity lens, workforce metrics, and other information.</p>
DHCS' role	<p>DHCS will develop performance outcomes, in consultation with counties and stakeholders.</p>	<p>DHCS is authorized to impose corrective action plans on counties that fail to meet certain requirements.</p>

The California Health & Human Services Agency and DHCS will convene the **Behavioral Health Services Act Revenue Stability Workgroup** to assess fluctuations in tax revenues generated by the Behavioral Health Services Act to support short- and long-term financial stability. The workgroup will recommend solutions to reduce revenue volatility and propose reserve levels needed for the sustainability of county programs and services.

Part 2: Behavioral Health Bond

The Behavioral Health Bond consists of a \$6.4 billion general obligation bond with two parts:

» **\$4.4 billion for treatment sites**, modeled after the successful Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (<https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/>). (BHCIP). Funding will be used to build:

- **6,800 behavioral health treatment beds** and **26,700 behavioral health outpatient** treatment slots.
- **\$4.4 billion in grants** for behavioral health treatment facilities, with \$1.5 billion to be awarded to counties and cities, **and \$30 million set aside for tribal communities.**
- A **\$1.972 billion** bond for **supportive housing**, to be managed by the HCD (<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/>), modeled after HomeKey. Funding will be invested in housing for individuals with extremely low income and behavioral health challenges who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
 - **4,350 permanent supportive housing units**, with 2,350 set aside for veterans.

- **\$1.065 billion in housing investments for veterans** experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have behavioral health needs. These funds will be administered in collaboration with [CalVet \(https://www.calvet.ca.gov/\)](https://www.calvet.ca.gov/).
- **\$922 million in housing investments** for people at risk of homelessness who have behavioral health conditions.

The remaining **\$2 billion** is for permanent supportive housing, modeled after HomeKey, with half dedicated to veterans, and is administered by Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSHA) and [CalVet \(https://www.calvet.ca.gov/\)](https://www.calvet.ca.gov/). Stakeholder and funding opportunities are there.

Stakeholder Engagement

DHCS will offer several stakeholder engagement opportunities, including monthly public listening sessions, to gather input on the development of policy and guidance related to Behavioral Health Transformation.

- **Monthly public listening sessions are open to all.**
- DHCS will analyze and consider feedback received during these sessions as it develops Behavioral Health Transformation policy. Sessions and registration information will be shared on the [Stakeholder Engagement webpage \(/BHT/Pages/Stakeholder-Engagement.aspx\)](/BHT/Pages/Stakeholder-Engagement.aspx), along with recordings of previous sessions.

Anticipated Behavioral Health Transformation Milestones

Below are high-level timeframes for several DHCS milestones. Additional updates on timelines and policy will be shared throughout the project.

- Starting spring 2024
 - **Stakeholder engagement**, including **public listening sessions**, will be used through all milestones to inform policy creation.
- Starting summer 2024
 - **Bond BHCIP: Round 1 Launch Ready Request for Applications** (</formsandpubs/publications/oc/Pages/2024/24-23.aspx>) for up to \$3.3 billion in funding will leverage the BHCIP and HomeKey models.
- Starting early 2025
 - **County Integrated Plan for Behavioral Health Services and Outcomes policy and guidance** will be released in phases, beginning with policy and guidance for integrated plans.
- Summer 2026
 - **County Integrated Plans for Behavioral Health Services and Outcomes, fiscal transparency, and data reporting requirements** go live in July 2026 (for the next three-year cycle).



CALVET



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1. [Mental Health in California \(https://www.nami.org/NAMI/media/NAMI-Media/StateFactSheets/CaliforniaStateFactSheet.pdf\)](https://www.nami.org/NAMI/media/NAMI-Media/StateFactSheets/CaliforniaStateFactSheet.pdf).
 2. Toward a New Understanding: The California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness. [CASPEH_Report_62023.pdf \(ucsf.edu\)](https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/sites/default/files/2023-06/CASPEH_Report_62023.pdf) (https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/sites/default/files/2023-06/CASPEH_Report_62023.pdf).
 3. Substance Use in California. 2022 Edition — Substance Use in California - California Health Care Foundation (chcf.org) (<https://www.chcf.org/publication/2022-edition-substance-use-california/#:~:text=Nine%20percent%20of%20Californians%20met%20the%20criteria%20for%20substance%20use%20disorder%20%28SUD%29%20in%20the%20last%20year.>).
 4. [Behavioral Health Transformation \(https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/BHSA-Presentation.pdf\)](https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/BHSA-Presentation.pdf).
 5. Note: Counties will have flexibility to adjust the funding amounts in each area. [Behavioral Health Services Act Fact Sheet \(https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/BHSA-Fact-Sheet-September.pdf%20\)](https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/BHSA-Fact-Sheet-September.pdf%20).

ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
February 19, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: CV Housing First's 2024 Annual Report

Contact: Candice Graff, Management Analyst II (cgraff@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Receive and file the annual report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in 2024

Background: CVAG has now completed its fourth year of operating the CV Housing First program with staff. The program is focused on the CV 175, a by-name list of chronically homeless individuals residing in desert cities that have frequent contacts with law enforcement and who are likely to be shelter resistant or who have already fallen out of housing. The list was developed in partnership with CVAG's member jurisdictions and local law enforcement. It is also maintained in partnership with those agencies.

The client list for 2024 started as the CV 200 list. Over the summer, CVAG began winding down services in the City of Desert Hot Springs, which opted out of the program due to the funding being redirected to The Hub shelter program. Based on direction from the Homelessness and Executive Committees, staff is resetting the client list back to CV 200 for 2025. Staff has recently met with the local police departments, code enforcement and other partners to identify who needs to remain on the list in 2025 and who may not need to be on the list, either because they are being helped by other programs or because they have left the Coachella Valley.

The data is divided by CV 175 clients – the by-name list of chronically homeless individuals that CVAG maintains in partnership with law enforcement and code enforcement – and non-CV 175 clients. In 2024, there were 50 clients from the CV 175 list who were permanently housed and another two non-CV 175 served in 2024 that were permanently housed.

CVAG staff had set a goal of permanently housing 65 individuals this calendar year. However, in 2024, CV Housing First experienced a record low for referrals to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) vouchers, only receiving one referral throughout the year for CV 175 clients. CV Housing First did see an increase in project-based vouchers in 2024 with the opening of projects like Vista Sunrise II and Vista De La Sierra. The total referrals for PSH and project-based vouchers was down by 26% in 2024. Despite this, the team managed to increase the number of clients that exited homelessness with family reunification, 55+ housing, shared housing, and other programs available for homeless individuals that suffer from untreated mental illness or have no income but qualify for Social Security Disability.

CVAG staff has committed to adjusting CV Housing First programming based on the data and based on available funding. Updates on the program's metrics are provided quarterly. The CV Housing First team uses two primary methods to get clients to housing solutions: rapid resolution and crisis stabilization units, which are residential units, apartments and hotel rooms that CVAG rents to case manage CV Housing First clients. CVAG staff will continue to provide quarterly reports as it provides services in 2025.

CV Housing First Clients – By the Numbers through December 31, 2024

CV 175 as of 12/31/2024	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Clients housed in Crisis Stabilization Units (CSH)	46	38	37	40	161
Clients being helped through Rapid Resolution (RR)	0	0	1	0	1
Clients returned to the street (failures)	11	17	13	18	59
Clients moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	15	11	8	11	45
Clients moved into permanent housing through RR (successes)	0	0	1	0	1
Clients moved into permanent housing through Outreach (successes)*	0	0	4	0	4
TOTAL HOUSED FROM LIST OF 175	15	11	13	11	50

NON CV 175 Clients	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Households Housed in CSH Units	0	0	3	1	4
Households being helped through RR	0	0	0	0	0

Households returned to the street (failures)	0	0	2	0	2
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Households moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	0	0	1	1	2
Households moved into permanent housing from RR (successes) *	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS HOUSED	0	0	1	1	2
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS HOUSED	0	0	1	1	2

The total number of clients housed or returning to the streets is less than the total helped each quarter, as the grand total includes clients who may remain in their units at the end of the quarter. CVAG continues to refine its data metrics in order to be transparent about how many and how quickly individuals are housed. CVAG also tracks clients who are being permanently housed by the CV Housing First program via outreach efforts, and not case management based in the crisis stabilization units.

CVAG staff also tracks how long individuals are staying in the program before being housed or returning to the street. The goal is to exit clients within 90 days to permanent housing solutions. In previous years, it is not uncommon for the length of stay to exceed 100 days. For the fourth quarter, the CV 175 clients who successfully exited the program into permanent housing stayed in a crisis stabilization unit on average for **62 days**. Those CV 175 clients who exited the program unsuccessfully stayed on average **30 days**. Staff also tracks previous clients to see how long they remain in housing, and will provide additional details as part of the presentation to the Homelessness Committee.

Fiscal Analysis: The CV Housing First program, including the staffing and CV 175 program, is incorporated into the CV Housing First budget, which has been funded by contributions from cities and Riverside County grants.

ITEM 7C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
February 19, 2025**



Subject: Appointment of Regional Representative to SCAG Policy Committee

Contact: Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Discuss and nominate a CVAG representative to SCAG’s Community, Economic and Human Development Committee

Background: The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization (MPO), representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 19 million residents. SCAG's policy is set by the 86-member Regional Council, with CVAG member jurisdictions representing Regional Council Districts 2 and 66. CVAG appoints members to represent the region on SCAG’s policy committees: Community, Economic, and Human Development; Energy and Environment; and Transportation.

The mission of SCAG’s Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD) is to “study problems, programs and other matters which pertain to the regional issues of community, economic and human development and growth. This committee reviews projects, plans and programs of regional significance for consistency and conformity with applicable regional plans. The CEHD Committee has oversight of the Growth Visioning and Growth Forecasting processes, as well as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, the Intergovernmental Review effort and the monitoring and analysis of the Regional Economy.

In 2019, the Executive Committee acknowledged that the appointments should be reviewed on occasion and established a two-year term for each of the committee representatives. In spring of 2021, CVAG’s Executive Committee appointed Indio Councilmember Waymond Fermon to the CEHD Committee. He was reappointed in April 2023.

CVAG staff is now seeking input from the Homelessness Committee on appointing a representative for the next two-year term on SCAG’s CEHD Committee. Councilmember Fermon has expressed interest in continuing to serve. In advance of this discussion, CVAG staff provided a notification to the Committee members and did not receive any additional volunteers. The Committee’s recommended nomination will be presented to the CVAG Executive Committee along with the nominees for SCAG’s Energy and Environment Committee and its Transportation Committee.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no financial impact to CVAG, and any per diems for these meetings are paid for by SCAG.

ITEM 8A

**COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY2024-2025**

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	*SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians			○		○								0 out of 2
City of Blythe			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Cathedral City			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Coachella			●		●								2 out of 2
Desert Healthcare District			○		●								1 out of 2
City of Desert Hot Springs			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Indian Wells			○		○								0 out of 2
City of Indio			●		○								1 out of 2
City of La Quinta			●		○								1 out of 2
City of Palm Desert			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Palm Springs			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Rancho Mirage			●		●								2 out of 2
County of Riverside			●		●								2 out of 2
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians			●		●								2 out of 2
Total Attendance Per Meeting			11		10								

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	*SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition			○		○								0 out of 2
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission			○		○								0 out of 2
HomeAid Inland Empire			○		○								0 out of 2
Martha's Village and Kitchen			○		○								0 out of 2
The Salvation Army (vacant)			○		○								0 out of 2
Shelter From the Storm			●		○								1 out of 2
Total Attendance Per Meeting			1		0								

* This was a joint meeting with the Public Safety Committee

No Meeting
 Vacant **
 Present ●
 Absent ○

ITEM 8C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
February 19, 2024**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Annual contributions to the CV Housing First Program

Contact: Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: At its November meeting, the Homelessness Committee reviewed the level of contributions that CVAG's member jurisdictions make to the CV Housing First program. Based on the Homelessness Committee's recommendation, the CVAG Executive Committee on December 2 authorized the Executive Director to execute memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with member jurisdictions to increase the CV Housing First contribution to \$125,000 in Fiscal Year 2025/26 and provide for annual inflation adjustments that are reviewed by the Homelessness Committee. The Executive Committee also asked for further review of this issue by CVAG's Finance Committee, which will next meet on February 24.

As noted in the previous staff report, CVAG has since 2009 funded its regional homelessness programs – first Roy's Desert Resource Center, and then later programs that evolved into CV Housing First – by contributions from member jurisdictions. This process has historically involved CVAG staff sending a request to each city and Tribal Nation. The County of Riverside, which has been instrumental in helping CVAG secure additional funds through grants, has an agreement for general fund contributions through Fiscal Year 2025/2026 that provides \$359,711 annually. Sometimes the participating jurisdictions approve the request as part of the annual budget; other times, it is done through a separate action or a memorandum of understanding. Some have done this based on calendar year, and others on fiscal year – adding to additional record keeping at CVAG.

The annual contribution requests to cities have remained consistent around \$100,000 for more than 15 years and have not increased with the rates of inflation. Until Fiscal Year 2023/24, CV Housing First operations were fully funded by these contributions, including a now-ended contribution from the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation, as well as occasional grants. This allowed CVAG to develop a fund balance and start planning for future needs. But the program now is operating at a deficit, as rents of the crisis stabilization units continue to increase and other costs go up.

CVAG staff will be seeking additional direction from the Finance Committee at its February 24 meeting to address the questions raised by the Executive Committee related to equity. Members have questioned whether an across-the-board rate should continue, or whether a rate should fluctuate across the cities. CVAG staff is waiting for more input from the Finance Committee before reaching out to member jurisdictions about extending financial support of the program in

the form of a multi-year MOU. Long-term funding agreements will ensure financial stability for the program and avoid the uncertainty – and significant staff time – that comes with the traditional process of asking cities for funds each year. CVAG staff has consulted with Legal Counsel, who notes that there is no legal impediment to cities entering into a multi-year commitment. Additionally, the California Constitution debt limit only prohibits a multi-year contract where the funds to pay the full contract are not on hand, and that the amount of this proposed MOU does not appear large enough to create that concern.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to this report.

Moving forward, CVAG will be increasing the annual contribution request to cities to \$125,000 starting in Fiscal Year 2025/26. This would be the first time in more than 15 years that CVAG has increased the requested amount, which at one point was set at \$103,000 when Roy's Resource Center was open. It would generate an additional \$200,000 if approved by all cities currently participating in the program.

The CV Housing First program, including the staffing and program operations, is funded by contributions from member jurisdictions and grants. Riverside County's contribution through June 2026 is for \$359,711 annually. CVAG's Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget anticipates a \$1,733,687 operating budget, with a \$388,941 deficit being covered by the program's fund balance. CVAG continues to seek grant opportunities, such as the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding that is detailed in a separate staff report. CVAG projects there will be a \$2.163 million fund balance after this fiscal year's deficit-driven reduction. If this pattern continues and no additional funding is secured, the deficit will likely be depleted within three to five years.

This additional funding is necessary to maintain current levels of service, including a dedicated program staff of six full time employees and a conservative approach to the number of crisis stabilization units being rented. Much of the CV Housing First budget is tied directly to personnel costs because CV Housing First is a labor-intensive program. The team is directly managing each client, first during outreach and then while they are in a crisis stabilization unit. As previously noted by members of the Homelessness Committee, it takes a significant amount of staff time per client for that client to be successfully housed. The program invests that time knowing that there is a time, and cost savings, when there are fewer chronically homeless individuals for code enforcement or law enforcement to address.

CVAG will also incorporate an annual inflation adjustment into the future MOUs. The inflation factor shall be reviewed annually by the Homelessness Committee. It shall be the same one utilized to budget other CVAG programs, which is based on the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Area Consumer Price Index (CPI). This approach is identical to the one reviewed by the Finance and Executive Committees when considering an increase to membership dues during the budget process.

**COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HOMELESS & BUS PASS PROGRAM
UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024**

REVENUES

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 627,000
HOMELESS FUNDING	\$ 437,611
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>1,064,611</u>

EXPENDITURES

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	456,319	
BUILDING LEASE MAINTENANCE/RENT	152,885	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	20,471	
MISC SUNDRIES/HOUSING ESSENTIALS	-	
RAPID RESOLUTIONS	2,689	
LEGAL SERVICES	4,472	
PROJECT COSTS/OTHER EXPENSES	96,873	
ELECTRIC (UTILITIES)	39,279	
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,797	
LOCAL MEETINGS/STAFF MILEAGE	7,751	
MOBILE ACCESS CENTER (MAC)	3,171	
ADVERTISING	-	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>785,707</u>
NET INCOME (DEFICIT)		<u>278,904</u>

FUND BALANCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR 2,478,488

PRELIMINARY FUND BALANCE AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024 \$ 2,757,392

ITEM 8E

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
February 19, 2024**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Alan Seman Bus Pass Program 2024 Annual Report

Contact: Candice Graff, Management Analyst II (cgraff@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Since 2007, CVAG has provided a bus pass program that works in conjunction with non-profit agencies throughout the Coachella Valley to ensure homeless or near homeless individuals can get access to case management services, employment opportunities and medical care. The program is named in honor of Alan Seman, a longtime Rancho Mirage Councilmember and member of CVAG's Homelessness Committee who was a strong advocate for the program.

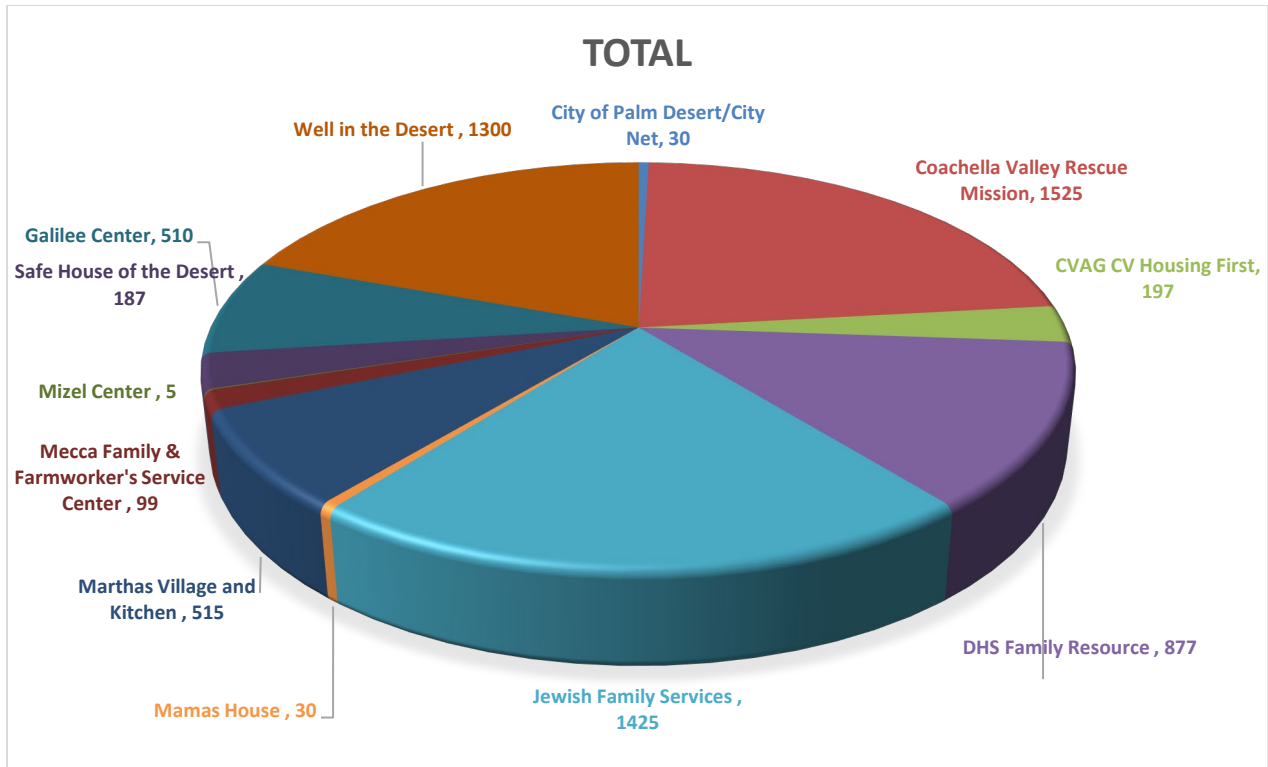
In 2024, CVAG staff worked with agencies that receive passes through the Alan Seman Bus Pass program to track how they are being used. This includes providing passes to the following organization serving people who are homeless, or at risk of being homeless: Palm Desert's City-led homelessness services; Coachella Valley Rescue Mission; CVAG's CV Housing First program; Desert Hot Springs Family Resource Center; Jewish Family Services of San Diego; Mama's House; Safe House of the Desert; Marthas Village and Kitchen; Galilee Center; and Well in the Desert.

A total of 6,700 passes were distributed in 2024, including single day passes for adults, youth, and seniors. CVAG utilizes 31-day passes for CV Housing First clients who will be in crisis stabilization units, usually for an average stay of 90 days. These bus passes allow clients to search for housing, address outstanding legal issues, get to school and have transportation to mental health facilities.

Fiscal Analysis: The Alan Seman Bus Pass Program is funded through \$3,000 contributions that CVAG member cities contribute annually.

Attachment: 2024 Bus Pass Report

Totals Passes Used by Agencies



Agency	Adult Day Passes	Senior Day Passes	31-Day Adult Passes	31-Day Senior Passes	Totals
City of Palm Desert/City Net	30	0	0	0	30
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	1265	260	0	0	1525
CVAG CV Housing First	0	0	187	10	197
DHS Family Resource	877	0	0	0	877
Jewish Family Services	1165	260	0	0	1425
Mamas House	30	0	0	0	30
Marthas Village and Kitchen	465	50	0	0	515
Mecca Family & Farmworker's Service Center	63	36	0	0	99
Mizel Center	3	2	0	0	5
Safe House of the Desert	187	0	0	0	187
Galilee Center	450	60	0	0	510
Well in the Desert	1000	300	0	0	1300
Totals	5535	968	187	10	6700

Top Uses of Bus Passes

