

ITEM 5A

**Homelessness Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2021**



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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - The April 21, 2021 meeting was called to order by Homelessness Committee Vice Chair John Peña, City of La Quinta, at 10:01 a.m. on Zoom videoconference, pursuant to Gov. Newsom's executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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
City of Desert Hot Springs
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

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
Councilmember Mark Carnevale
Councilmember Josie Gonzalez
Councilmember Jan Pye
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon
Councilmember John Peña, Vice Chair
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan
Councilmember Grace Garner *(arrived in Item 5)*
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend *(arrived in Item 4)*
Assistant Director Carrie Harmon *(arrived in Item 6)*
Board Director Carole Rogers, RN *(arrived in Item 4)*

Ex-Officio Members Present

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Home Aid Inland Empire
Martha's Village and Kitchen
Shelter from the Storm

Darla Burkett
Julie Reay
Linda Barrack
Angelina Coe

Ex-Officios Not Present

Coachella Valley Housing Coalition

Alice Salinas

Others Present

CVAG

Tom Kirk
Claude Kilgore
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Tom Cox
Peter Satin
Anyse Smith

CVAG/ Riverside County
City of Coachella
City of La Quinta

Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Lift to Rise

RUHS-Behavioral Health
City of Rancho Mirage
Individuals

Ivan Tenorio
Greg Rodriguez
Councilmember Denise Delgado
Mayor Linda Evans
Councilmember Steve Sanchez
Doug Kinley
Conrado Barzaga
Donna Craig
Kimberly McKinney
Heather Vaikona
Taylor Libolt Varner
Araceli Palafox
Marcus Cannon
Marcus Aleman
Brad Anderson
Grace Belluscio
Reyna Camarena
Chris Gerry
David Murphy
Roy Ramirez
Five others joined video conference
without full names listed

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

After asking the Chair about the timing of his public comment, Brad Anderson, a resident of Rancho Mirage, expressed opposition to agenda Item 6C.

Due to technical issues, Councilmember Jonathan, former Homelessness Committee Chair, led the rest of the meeting.

4. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Indio Councilmember Waymond Fermon discussed encampments and praised the CV Housing First program's impact in the community.

Cathedral City Councilmember Mark Carnevale also touted the program, and noted that during a recent tour, there appeared to be fewer homeless individuals in the City.

Rancho Mirage Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend asked about additional state resources for addressing homelessness, and also noted the City had voted to contribute to the program this year.

Coachella Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez also discussed the impact on regional homeless programs and the work to connect clients to the proper services.

Acting Chair Jonathan acknowledged the work of CVAG and the CV Housing First team.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FERMON AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM TOWNSEND TO:

- A. Approve the February 17, 2021 Homelessness Committee Meeting Minutes**

- B. Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute Amendment #1 to the grant agreement with Riverside County to accept an additional \$97,000 in Homeless Emergency Aid Program funding for the CV Housing First Program**

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 1 MEMBER ABSENT.

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Josie Gonzalez	AYE
Councilmember Jan Pye	AYE
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan	AYE
Councilmember Grace Garner	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend	AYE
Assistant Director Carrie Harmon	ABSENT
Director Carole Rogers	AYE

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. CV Housing First: Update on 2021 progress – Tom Kirk

Tom Kirk, along with Tom Cox, provided an update on CV Housing First Program and the first quarter of operations. The presentation focused on the CV200 initiative, and highlighted success stories and stories of clients who returned to the street.

Member discussion ensued, with members expressing appreciation for the new focus of the program and the metrics being used. Mr. Kirk and Mr. Cox answered members' questions.

There was no vote taken as this was an informational item.

B. Continued Support from Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation for CV Housing First – Erica Felci

Erica Felci provided an update on the support from the District/ Foundation, and the Board's recent approval to provide \$500,000 for the program. Members expressed their appreciation to the District for the contribution and the history of support for the program.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM TOWNSEND AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMEBR CARNEVALE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT/ FOUNDATION TO ACCEPT \$500,000 FOR THE CV HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM OPERATIONS

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES.

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Josie Gonzalez	AYE
Councilmember Jan Pye	AYE
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan	AYE
Councilmember Grace Garner	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend	AYE
Assistant Director Carrie Harmon	AYE
Director Carole Rogers	AYE

C. Acceptance of Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funding – Greg Rodriguez & Peter Satin

Greg Rodriquez provided an update on the process to secure REAP funding, including the additional review and input from the Homelessness Committee's CV HEART ad hoc committee. Member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMEBR CARNEVALE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ACCEPT \$558,000 IN REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING FUNDING, INCLUDING NEGOTIATING AND EXECUTING THE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS; AND THEN TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH LIFT TO RISE FOR A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$304,000

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES.

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Josie Gonzalez	AYE
Councilmember Jan Pye	AYE
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan	AYE
Councilmember Grace Garner	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend	AYE
Assistant Director Carrie Harmon	AYE
Director Carole Rogers	AYE

7. INFORMATION – The following items were provided for the Committee’s information, and the Acting Chair asked ex officio members for input on 7B:

A. Attendance Record

B. Ex-Officio Updates

None were presented during the meeting.

After the meeting, Darla Burkett, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, provided a written update for the Committee to acknowledge the recent vaccination clinics for COVID-19; the addition of a fully staffed outreach team as well as a Housing First staff; and an upcoming graduation of 67 CVRM clients.

C. State Auditor’s Report on Continuum of Care (COC) Agencies

D. Preliminary Monitoring Report from the Riverside County Department of Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions

E. CV Housing First Unaudited Financial Report

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson, resident of Rancho Mirage, expressed his disappointment that he was asked to submit his comment at the Public Comment period instead of during the staff presentation.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Zoom Meetings:

Homelessness Committee – Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee – Monday, April 26, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

At the conclusion of the meeting, several Committee members expressed appreciation to Councilmember Jonathan for leading the meeting.

10. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci

CVAG Assistant to the Executive Director