

HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE PANELIST LINK BY EMAIL. PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.



Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 18, 2020), the Homelessness Committee meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.

HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81497105236?pwd=ZGNZMmNTMkdFMVRYOURIVzq3ZEdbQT09>

Password: 873324

One Tap Mobile: +16699009128,,81497105236#

Dial In: +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 814 9710 5236

Password: 873324

This will provide listening access and ability to address the Homelessness Committee when called upon.

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.

Comments intended to be read aloud should be no more than 300 characters.

**THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.
ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Christy Holstege, Mayor, City of Palm Springs

2. **ROLL CALL**
 - A. **Member Roster** P4

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Homelessness Committee on agenda items. At the discretion of the Chair, comments may be taken at the time items are presented. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

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

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - A. **Approve the April 21, 2021 Homelessness Committee Meeting Minutes** P5
 - B. **Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute Amendment #2 to the agreement between CVAG and Riverside County for strategic planning and implementation of regional homelessness services, extending the term of the contract for Government Affairs and Public Policy Advisor Greg Rodriguez through June 30, 2022, with an optional second year, for an additional \$30,000 annually** P10

6. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**
 - A. **Appointment of Regional Representative to SCAG Policy Committee – Peter Satin** P13

Recommendation: Discuss and nominate a CVAG representative to SCAG’s Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee
 - B. **Expanded Partnerships for the CV Housing First Program – Tom Cox** P14

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute no-cost Memorandums of Understanding with California State University, San Bernardino; Inland Counties Legal Services Inc.; Inland Empire Health Plan; Jewish Family Services of the Desert; as well as other providers who can expand the services to assist the CV Housing First program
 - C. **CV Housing First’s Use of the Palm Springs Boxing Club – Greg Rodriguez** P16

Recommendation: Information
 - D. **Summer Cooling Centers – Greg Rodriguez** P18

Recommendation: Information

7. **INFORMATION**

- A. Attendance Record P19
- B. Ex Officio Updates
- C. Financial Support for CV Housing First P20
- D. Update on Alan Seman Bus Pass Program P22
- E. Meeting Reimbursements for Elected Committee Members P23
- F. CVAG's participation in the Institute for Local Government's BOOST Program P25

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

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Homelessness Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this committee. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming Zoom Meetings:

Homelessness Committee – Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee – Monday, June 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

ITEM 2A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
Member Roster
2020- 2021**



VOTING MEMBERS	
City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Coachella	Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Jan Pye
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Kimberly Muzik
City of Indio	Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña – <u>Vice Chair</u>
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Sabby Jonathan
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Christy Holstege – <u>Chair</u>
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Desert Healthcare District	Director Carole Rogers, RN
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians	Unassigned
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members	
Alice Salinas, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition	
Darla Burkett, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	
Julie Reay, Executive Director, Home Aid Inland Empire	
Linda Barrack, Executive Director, Martha’s Village and Kitchen	
Vacant, The Salvation Army	
Angelina Coe, Executive Director, Shelter from the Storm	
Additional Support Staff	
Carrie Harmon, Assistant Director Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions	Dr. Conrado Bãrzaga, CEO, Desert Healthcare District
Tanya Torno, Principal Development Specialist, Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions	Marcus Cannon, Behavioral Health Services Supervisor, Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health

CVAG Staff	
Tom Kirk, Executive Director	
Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director	
Greg Rodriguez, Contract Staff	
Tom Cox, Management Analyst	

Updated: 05/13/21

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	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Coachella	Councilmember Josie Gonzalez
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Jan Pye
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Kimberly Muzik
City of Indio	Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña, Vice Chair
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Sabby Jonathan
City of Palm Springs	Councilmember Grace Garner <i>(arrived in Item 5)</i>
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend <i>(arrived in Item 4)</i>
Riverside County- District 4	Assistant Director Carrie Harmon <i>(arrived in Item 6)</i>
Desert Healthcare District	Board Director Carole Rogers, RN <i>(arrived in Item 4)</i>

Ex-Officio Members Present

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	Darla Burkett
Home Aid Inland Empire	Julie Reay
Martha's Village and Kitchen	Linda Barrack
Shelter from the Storm	Angelina Coe

Ex-Officios Not Present

Coachella Valley Housing Coalition	Alice Salinas
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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 Rodriguez 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

ITEM 5B

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee**

May 11, 2021



Staff Report

Subject: County Resources for the CV Housing First Program

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute Amendment #2 to the agreement between CVAG and Riverside County for strategic planning and implementation of regional homelessness services, extending the term of the contract for Government Affairs and Public Policy Advisor Greg Rodriguez through June 30, 2022, with an optional second year, for an additional \$30,000 annually

Background: Greg Rodriguez, Government Affairs and Public Policy Advisor for Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, has been contracted to help CVAG with regional homelessness programs since 2019. The staffing agreement was supported by Supervisor Perez, who initially approached CVAG with the offer to help implement some of the recommendations in Barbara Poppe's report, which established a blueprint for how the Coachella Valley could better address homelessness. The staffing arrangement was also supported by the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation Board.

Mr. Rodriguez's role involved working with stakeholders to define the collaborative and map out a course to transition oversight of regional homelessness initiatives like CV Housing First from CVAG to a regional collaborative. Mr. Rodriguez would also lead implementation of other recommendations from the Poppe report, including using established connections to identify needed resources and break down administrative or operational barriers, as well as serve as the main point person for regional issues related to homelessness.

In April 2019, the CVAG Executive Committee supported the recommendation from the Homelessness Committee to enter into an agreement with the County for Mr. Rodriguez's time. The agreement was for a not-to-exceed amount of \$90,000 for one year, with an option to renew the agreement for a second year. The agreement also stipulated that Mr. Rodriguez would spend 75 percent of his time on homelessness, particularly the collaborative.

The original agreement had an option to renew for a second year, which was authorized in September 2020 at the same time that the CVAG Executive Committee authorized the transition of the CV Housing First program to one that is operated in-house. A few months later, the CVAG Homelessness and Executive Committees also acknowledged some of the challenges that had been encountered in building a collaborative, particularly in terms of securing resources and buy-in from other providers and collaborative partners. In December 2020, the CVAG Executive Committee in December authorized the Executive Director to shift focus from creating a formal collaborative structure in the Coachella Valley and instead support the regional efforts being pursued by Riverside County and the Continuum of Care, which is an organization that redistributes pooled resources for homelessness response across Riverside County.

In line with CVAG's new policy direction, Mr. Rodriguez's time in recent months has focused on coordinated responses to homelessness and issues, not a formal collaborative. He attends CVAG's internal staffing meetings and represents the CV Housing First program at external meetings. Most importantly, Mr. Rodriguez has played a critical role in helping CVAG transition its program to one led by staff. He has helped the CVAG team identify funding sources and access countywide resources. This includes a partnership with the County where the provides Project Roomkey units – which are hotel units for homeless individuals – that the CV Housing First team can directly manage for its own clients. This allows CVAG to help additional clients without signing additional leases and paying for more units.

A draft scope of work, which would be incorporated into Amendment #2, is attached. CVAG staff is recommending a second amendment to the agreement that would extend the agreement for Mr. Rodriguez through June 2022, and provide the Executive Director the option to renew the agreement for a second year if needed.

The staffing arrangement would allow CVAG to have a dedicated resource to ensure its program is coordinating with other services in the region. It also would allow CVAG to further refine its program to be aligned with mental health and behavioral health services. CVAG's focus is on the CV 200 clients, who are chronically homeless individuals who are often frequenting emergency rooms or engaging with public safety officers for help. CVAG's recently approved Memorandum of Understanding with the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation, which provides \$500,000 for the program, also outlines a desire to have clear metrics for the CV Housing First program to align it with public health goals. Part of Mr. Rodriguez's role will be to help CVAG coordinate with the District/ Foundation staff on health-related program metrics, which provides additional tracking on the work CVAG is doing to connect CV 200 clients to mental and behavioral health programs as well as social services. His work would also include developing and implementing programs that coordinate the CV 200 services with respite care and discharge planning in the Coachella Valley.

Fiscal Impact: CVAG staff is recommending Amendment #2 have an annual not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000. This is a smaller annual amount than previous years, reflecting CVAG's policy direction and need for continued collaboration at a countywide and regional level. The funds will be allocated from the CVAG homelessness fund and would be incorporated into CVAG's Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget.

Attachment: Scope of work for Amendment #2

Regional Homelessness Services and Collaboration Year Three Workplan

Goal: To provide additional resources for strategic planning and implementation of regional homelessness services, particularly as it pertains with collaborating with the health-related metrics of the CV Housing First program and the services provided to its CV 200 clients.

Scope of Services

- Represent the CV Housing First program in countywide and regional meeting and conversations, including utilizing Riverside County relationships and positions within the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Board of Governance (BOG) to implement regional approaches
- Identify and implement public/private partnerships in the CoC and BOG strategic plan and action plan process.
- Provide staff support and guidance with CVAG staff on full implementation of CV Housing First program, services to the CV 200 and the implementation of the mobile access center.
- Continue to enhance and develop further collaboration of Coachella Valley service providers in conjunction with the regional and collaborative efforts of Riverside County.
- Identify and secure resources from current and future County, State, and Federal homelessness allocations for CV Housing First and other Coachella Valley-specific programs and services.
- Develop and implement healthcare-focused metrics for the CV Housing First program in partnership with the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation, including data tracking and quarterly reports.
- Establish and help implement program guidelines for the CV 200 in conjunction with respite care and discharge planning across the Coachella Valley, which can further coordinate homelessness services and housing placement needs.
- Expand public outreach and communication strategies to inform elected officials, business organizations, community-based organizations and the public at large of the available homelessness resources and services as well as highlight the successes of the CV Housing First program.

ITEM 6A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
May 19, 2021**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Appointment of Regional Representative to SCAG Policy Committee

Contact: Peter Satin, Regional Planner (psatin@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. CVAG serves as the sub-regional organization holding elections for two of the Regional Council districts (District 2 and District 66). CVAG also appoints members to represent the region on SCAG's policy committees: Community, Economic, and Human Development; Energy and Environment; and Transportation.

In the spring of 2019, CVAG's Executive Committee appointed representatives to SCAG's Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee and Energy and Environment Committee. Desert Hot Springs Councilmember Jan Pye was appointed to the Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee, and has represented CVAG since that time.

The Executive Committee in 2019 also acknowledged that the appointments should be reviewed on occasion and established a two-year term for each of the committee representatives. Those 2019 appointments are now ending, and CVAG staff is seeking input from the Homelessness Committee on the appointment.

The mission of SCAG's Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee 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."

Councilmember Pye has indicated a desire to allow another member to represent CVAG at SCAG. CVAG staff is recommending the Homelessness Committee discuss the issue, and then provide a nomination that can be presented to the CVAG Executive Committee.

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

ITEM 6B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
May 19, 2021



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Expanded Partnerships for the CV Housing First Program

Contact: Tom Cox, Management Analyst (tcox@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute no-cost Memorandums of Understanding with California State University, San Bernardino; Inland Counties Legal Services Inc.; Inland Empire Health Plan; Jewish Family Services of the Desert; as well as other providers who can expand the services to assist the CV Housing First program

Background: The CV Housing First program is now several months into its in-house operations and, as previously reported to the Homelessness Committee, the program has been refined to focus on the CV 200. This by-name list, developed in partnership with local law enforcement, are chronically homeless individuals who were frequently using public social services. The case management for these clients is often wide-ranging, and can include helping the client address medical issues, such as mental health or substance misuse; addressing needs for legal services; and also working on other issues to establish self-sufficiency. In order to serve these clients, they must provide consent and a sign a Release of Information (ROI).

As part of the in-house transition, CVAG staff has worked to bolster existing partnerships and establish new relationships with other programs and service providers whose services may overlap with similar clients. CVAG staff also has been exploring ways to leverage resources. Some of those partners include California State University, San Bernardino; Inland Counties Legal Services Inc.; Inland Empire Health Plan; and Jewish Family Services of the Desert, who had formerly been the operator at Roy's Desert Resource Center when CVAG operated an emergency overnight shelter program.

In order to best leverage services, CVAG staff is recommending the Executive Director be authorized to negotiate and enter into no-cost memorandums of understanding (MOU) that allow CVAG staff to work with other providers on client services. The MOUs would include clauses to protect clients' rights and confidentiality under HIPPA health privacy regulations. They also would provide for greater information sharing and services, including access to food box programs, as well as provide additional expertise to the case management process.

For example, a partnership with the Inland Counties Legal Services, Inc would help clients who need assistance in proper documentation, such as birth certificates. It also would help with signing clients up for Housing and Disability Advocacy Program, which helps clients connect with benefits such as Social Security. Another MOU example is a partnership with the California State University, San Bernardino, which would allow clients to work with students in the university's nursing program. Under the terms of an MOU, CVAG would help connect clients with some of the

basic medical services that the university's nursing student provides and, for clients with insurance, provide access for the nurses inside CVAG's crisis stabilization units This would not make CVAG privy to any medical data.

With this authorization, CVAG staff will continue to establish partnerships with providers whose services are needed by CV Housing First clients.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for the agreements. The benefits to the agreements, including collaborative services, are aimed at reducing the costs of services for CV Housing First clients.

ITEM 6C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
May 19, 2021**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: CV Housing First's Use of the Palm Springs Boxing Club

Contact: Greg Rodriguez, County Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor
(GRodrigu@rivco.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: In fall 2019, CVAG began discussions with public safety agencies in several cities to assess interest in strengthening coordination with homeless service providers. Concurrently, the City of Palm Springs approached CVAG regarding ideas for longer-term use of the former Boxing Club, which is located on South El Cielo near the Palm Springs International Airport. The City was open to using the location as an access center for the CV Housing First program. In December 2019, the CVAG Executive Committee authorized the Executive Director to enter into no-cost agreements with the City of Palm Springs and other entities as necessary for use of City-owned facilities to deliver regional homelessness services through daytime access centers.

CVAG's CV Housing First program began operating out of the Boxing Club in February 2020. It has been used to house the former contractor – Path of Life Ministries – and now is the home base for the CVAG staff who are part of the CV Housing First program. The location allows for CVAG to deploy its outreach teams and is the central location for services to the CV 200. However, under the transition of the CV Housing First program to one that is operated in-house, the main contact with clients is in the field, not at the access center.

The City of Palm Springs has partnered with CVAG to offer the space free of charge. The current facilities use agreement expires on July 1, 2021.

In recent months, the City of Palm Springs City Council has been discussing a conditional use permit for the Well in the Desert, which is another service provider that is based in the City. Well operates daytime services, such as meals and showers, but has faced concerns from neighbors about its operations.

At the April 22, 2021 meeting of the Palm Springs City Council, a recommendation was made by Council to City staff to research the ability, and come up with a plan, to relocate The Well in the Desert to the Boxing Club. CVAG staff has met with the City. Due to the different logistics of both programs, CVAG staff has let the City know that CVAG would not seek to renew its facilities use agreement if the Well is relocated to the Boxing Club. At the same time, CVAG staff is working on contingency plans for new office locations and will be prepared to vacate the Boxing Club if that is the City's direction. CVAG staff is also working to deploy its new, grant-funded mobile access center to assist with program operations.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost for CVAG to lease the Boxing Club space. Administrative costs associated with operating an access center, such as office supplies and internet service, have been incorporated into the program's budget. CVAG staff is deferential to the City and whatever decision the Council makes. At the same time, CVAG staff is exploring how to utilize other available office space in the City of Palm Springs or mid-valley in a similar in-kind agreement to save on potential office space costs.

ITEM 6D

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
May 19, 2021**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Summer Cooling Centers

Contact: Greg Rodriguez, County Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor
(GRodrigu@rivco.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: At the April 2021 meeting, members of the CVAG Homelessness Committee requested an update on any plans for a cooling center program during the summer months.

During the summers of 2019 and 2020, the County of Riverside funded the operation of three overnight cooling centers that were located in the cities of Palm Springs, Cathedral City and Desert Hot Springs. Contracts were executed with the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) to provide with the cooling center operators. The services were open from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. daily in 2019 and from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. in 2020, which provided homeless individuals with overnight shelter, showers and meals. Some resources were dedicated to getting clients access to services; due to the hours of operation, the success level of those efforts were minimal.

Discussions are ongoing at the County level about the options for operating cooling centers again in 2021. There are negotiations and budgeting conversations occurring with CVRM, but nothing is finalized. The main hurdle is the funding. County staff is researching possible sources in Emergency Solutions Grant Funding or through recent federal stimulus acts. Funding allocations should be determined in the next couple of weeks.

Fiscal Analysis: The funding for cooling centers is determined by the County, and not CVAG.

Previous funding for these programs came from special funding allocations from Riverside County. In 2019, under authorization from the CVAG Executive Committee and with support from the Homelessness Committee, CVAG acted as the fiscal agent for the program. In 2020, the fiscal responsibility was handled by the Emergency Operations Center at the County due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Desert Healthcare District (DHCD) also provided funding to cover the utility expenses at both sites in 2019 and 2020. The DHCD Board, at its April 27, 2021 Foundation Board meeting, approved an allocation for the same funding in anticipation of possible summer shelters for 2021.

ITEM 7A

**COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY2020-2021**

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
City of Blythe	●	●	○		●			●		●			5 out of 6
City of Cathedral City	●	●	●		●			●		●			6 out of 6
City of Coachella	●	○	○		●			●		●			4 out of 6
City of Desert Hot Springs	●	●	●		●			●		●			6 out of 6
City of Indian Wells	●	●	●		○			●		●			5 out of 6
City of Indio	●	●	●		●			○		●			5 out of 6
City of La Quinta	●	●	●		●			●		●			6 out of 6
City of Palm Desert	●	●	●		●			●		●			6 out of 6
City of Palm Springs	●	●	●		●			●		●			6 out of 6
City of Rancho Mirage	●	●	●		●			●		●			6 out of 6
Riverside County	●	●	●		●			●		●			6 out of 6
Desert Healthcare District	●	●	●		●			●		●			6 out of 6
Total Attendance Per Meeting	12	11	10		11			11					

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition	○	●	●		●			○		○			3 out of 6
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	●	●	●		●			●		●			6 out of 6
HomeAid Inland Empire	○	●	●		●			●		●			5 out of 6
Martha's Village and Kitchen	●	●	●		●			○		●			6 out of 6
The Salvation Army (vacant)	○	○	○		○			○		○			0 out of 6
Shelter From the Storm	●	●	●		●			○		●			5 out of 6
Total Attendance Per Meeting	3	5	5		5			2					

Scheduled Dark Month
 No Meeting *

Present ●

Absent ○

ITEM 7C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
May 19, 2021**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Financial Support for CV Housing First

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: At its April 24 meeting, the CVAG Executive Committee authorized the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation to accept \$500,000 for the CV Housing First program operations. The District/ Foundation has also been instrumental in funding CVAG's CV Housing First Program, and CVAG staff echoes the appreciation expressed at the Homelessness and Executive Committees about the continued support.

With this agreement, the District/ Foundation will be providing \$500,000 for the program for the period of April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The MOU is slightly different than the previous dollar-for-dollar matching program that the District/ Foundation has previously done. However, it does come with a clause that CVAG needs to demonstrate a continued commitment of current funding levels from the CVAG member agencies.

CVAG has made a request that all member jurisdictions contribute \$100,000 for its 2020/2021 share, and staff is in the process of presenting a program update to every City Council. CVAG has also reached out to cities that had previously indicated their support, but had not sent the check. CVAG staff understands that submitting the contributions may have been overlooked or delayed due to the work-from-home conditions experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in the future, will issue formal invoices to ensure there is no lag in revenue.

Staff will be providing an update at the Homelessness Committee meetings so members can track this revenue. It also will be reflected on the unaudited financial contribution report, which is provided to the CVAG Homelessness Committee on at least a quarterly basis.

City	FY 19/20	FY 20/21
Cathedral City	Confirmed/ awaiting payment	Payment via MOU terms
Coachella	\$100,000	Awaiting confirmation
Desert Hot Springs	\$100,000	Awaiting confirmation
Indian Wells	-	Awaiting confirmation

City	FY 19/20	FY 20/21
Indio	Confirmed/ awaiting payment	Awaiting confirmation
La Quinta	\$83,333	\$100,000
Palm Desert	Confirmed/ awaiting payment	Confirmed/ awaiting payment
Palm Springs	Confirmed/ awaiting payment	Awaiting confirmation
Rancho Mirage	\$100,000	\$100,000

Fiscal Analysis: The CV Housing First program, including the staffing and program operations, is funded by contributions from cities, Riverside County, the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation, and grants.

ITEM 7D

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
May 19, 2021**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on the Alan Seman Bus Pass Program

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director, (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: In October 2007, CVAG launched a bus pass program that worked with the Homelessness Committee's ex-officio membership and service providers to distribute SunLine Transit Agency passes to those in need throughout the Coachella Valley. The program was later renamed in honor of Alan Seman, a longtime Rancho Mirage council member who was a strong advocate for the program.

The bus pass program involves CVAG staff working with SunLine to purchase a batch of passes – usually SunLine's day passes – then tracking their disbursement to local agencies such as the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, Shelter from the Storm, Well in the Desert and Martha's Village and Kitchen.

In March 2020, SunLine Transit Agency issued an emergency suspension of collecting fares in response to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. By suspending fares, riders were able to enter at the rear of the bus as opposed to the front of the bus, eliminating contact with the driver at the farebox. Given this, the distribution of bus passes was temporarily paused.

With conditions improving, SunLine resumed its resume fare collection as of May 2, 2021. CVAG staff has also resumed its bus pass program and is working with participating organizations to get the passes distributed to clients. CVAG will also be including passes for CV Housing First clients as part of the program.

Fiscal Analysis: CVAG purchases about \$3,000 worth of bus passes each month. Since the program started, CVAG's member jurisdictions have been asked to provide \$3,000 a year for the bus pass program. Cities have not been invoiced in this fiscal year because the program was on hiatus. With the resuming of fares, CVAG will be issuing invoices for \$3,000 to continue funding the Alan Seman Bus Pass program.

ITEM 7E

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
May 19, 2021**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Meeting Reimbursements for Elected Committee Members

Contact: Claude T. Kilgore, Director of Finance/Administration (ckilgore@cvag.org) and Joanna Stueckle, Executive Assistant/ Clerk (jstueckle@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: The CVAG Per Diem Policy was established in June 1998, reimbursing elected officials with \$50 for attendance to any CVAG elected committee meetings. The policy was updated in 2008, increasing the payments to \$100 for Executive Committee members and \$75 for all other elected committee members to attend the standing committee meetings.

Upon establishment of the Per Diem Policy, each elected committee met 10 times a year. In 2012, the number of meetings was reduced by three meetings a year, with each elected committee being scheduled seven meetings per year. On occasion, there has been a need to call additional special meetings due to timing issues, and the per diem was paid for member attendance.

For comparative purposes, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) policies were reviewed. The RCTC per diem is set at \$100 with no tax withholdings, while the WRCOG stipend is set at \$150 and is subject to tax withholdings.

At its April 26 meeting, the CVAG Executive Committee renamed the policy to the Stipend Policy, consistent with the name used by WRCOG given the payments are also subject to tax withholdings. The Executive Committee also approved a \$25 increase in stipend payments made to elected officials who attend committee meetings, putting it at \$125 for the Executive Committee and \$100 for all other elected committees.

CVAG committee members may notice they receive payment via form W-2 from CVAG. The staff would like to give background on why CVAG pays via W2 instead of 1099. Beginning January 2012, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) performed an examination over CVAG's federal tax withholdings related to payments made to Committee Members. The examination asserted that CVAG's paid Committee Members are subject to withholding for (i) federal income tax, (ii) FICA, (iii) FUTA. At the time, CVAG engaged General Counsel to act on its behalf and begin the appeals correspondence process with the IRS. The appeal was active during a two-year period, wherein, CVAG asserted its payments to Committee Members reflected that of independent contractors and that these Committee Members did not meet the definition of employees subject to such federal withholdings and payments. Ultimately, in May 2013, the IRS Appeals Office determined that for federal employment taxes, the paid Committee Members "are to be legally classified as

employees...”, effectively requiring CVAG to move such payment to Committee Members from a Form 1099 to a Form W-2 and withhold applicable taxes.

Fiscal Analysis: Based on the approved policy, there will be a \$25 increase in stipend payments made to elected officials who attend committee meetings, putting it at \$125 for the Executive Committee and \$100 for all other elected committees. This would result in an increased expenditure of approximately \$11,394 (including CVAG’s portion of federal income tax, FICA, and FUTA).

When this item was reviewed by the Administrative/ Personnel Committee in April 2021, members asked about the potential impact this would have on the budget. CVAG staff noted that the impact is not significant and, if approved, it will be incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 budget.

ITEM 7F

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
May 19, 2021**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: CVAG's participation in the Institute for Local Government's BOOST Program

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director, (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: In February 2020, the CVAG Executive Committee authorized the Executive Director to enter into a no-cost Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for Local Government (ILG) for participation in its BOOST program through December 31, 2020.

BOOST was a new pilot program created with funding support from the Strategic Growth Council, that was designed to help build capacity of under-resourced cities and regions in California. The no-cost help provided through this program could include research, identification of eligible funding opportunities, help applying for funding, planning support, and communications.

The Coachella Valley was identified by ILG as one of two regions in the state to participate in the BOOST program for 2020. Specifically, ILG was asked to provide support to address the funding and policy needs to advance regional affordable housing planning and production in the region, including the housing pipeline and action plan led by nonprofit Lift to Rise. ILG also was asked to provide research support to advance regional homelessness collaborative planning and provide specific support for Blythe. CVAG used the partnership to further highlight with the state, specifically the Strategic Growth Council, the barriers that are built into some grant program criteria that make Coachella Valley ineligible to apply for certain types of state funding. CVAG staff held a series of virtual meetings with ILG and Lift to Rise over the year. ILG also worked directly with CVAG's member cities to identify funding opportunities.

A final report on the BOOST program, and how it was implemented across the state, was presented to the Strategic Growth Council at the April 29, 2021 meeting. [A copy of the report can be found online at ILG's website.](#)

Fiscal Analysis: There was no cost to CVAG for this report or for participation in the BOOST program.