

**Homelessness Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2021**



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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - The September 15, 2021 meeting was called to order by Homelessness Committee Chair Christy Holstege, City of Palm Springs, at 10 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**

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
Desert Healthcare District	Board member Carole Rogers, RN
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	Mayor Christy Holstege
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend
Riverside County – District 4	Assistant Director Carrie Harmon

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Martha's Village and Kitchen	Linda Barrack
Shelter from the Storm	Angelina Coe
Home Aid Inland Empire	Julie Reay

**Members and Ex-Officios Not Present**

City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Coachella	Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzales
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition	Alice Salinas
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	Darla Burkett

**Others Present**

CVAG	Tom Kirk
	Erica Felci
	Joanna Stueckle
	Anyse Smith
	Janette Garcia
	Oscar Vizcarra
	Ivan Tenorio
	Stephanie Shambow
	Mike Gladish

CVAG	Beverly Newton
CVAG/ Riverside County	Greg Rodriguez
Riverside County	Tanya Torno
Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation	Marcus Cannon
National CORE	Conrado Barzaga
City of La Quinta	Donna Craig
Lift to Rise	Tony Mize
City of Desert Hot Springs	AJ Galka-Gonyeau
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Linda Evans
Desert Sun	Doug Kinley
Desert Hot Springs Library	Rubyd Olvera
ISCUW	Luke Rainey
Individuals	Councilmember Karina Quintanilla
	Heather Horning
	Ema Sasic
	Veronica Boswell
	Annie Andriasyan
	Myrel Cabezon
	Reyna Camerena
	Shaun Emerson
	Laurance Keegan
	Jeremy Griffin
	Joe Mota
	David Toner
	Diane Vines
	Nina Waszak
	Mary Ann Ybarra
	Bruce Yeager
	Six others joined video conference without full name listed

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

### **4. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS**

Palm Desert Councilmember Sabby Jonathan expressed an interest in the CVAG Homelessness Committee creating an ad hoc committee to explore the additional services that cities such as Los Angeles and Seattle have used to address homeless individuals who have refused services or who are not being helped by existing services. Councilmember Jonathan suggested the ad hoc could further research and evaluate optional programs that would be in addition to CV Housing First, then return to the full Homelessness Committee with a report and recommendations.

Assistant Director Carrie Harmon provided an update on some additional funding for homelessness programs as well as efforts to better map data as it pertains to the homeless in Riverside County.

Several members of the Homelessness Committee – including Cathedral City Councilmember Mark Carnevale and Indio Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon – echoed the comments by Councilmember Jonathan and expressed interest in moving the ad hoc idea forward. Staff provided input on the discussion, noting that it could be included on the Committee's next agenda or that it could be discussed in the framework of the gaps analysis (Item 6D). Councilmember Jonathan said he would raise the idea later in the meeting.

Chair Holstege acknowledged the new services at the Boxing Club in Palm Springs, which is operated by Martha's Village and Kitchen, and thanked CVAG staff for working with the City to get the property ready for the program.

## **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM TOWNSEND TO:**

- A. Approve the June 16, 2021 Homelessness Committee Meeting Minutes**
- B. Approve Resolution No. 21-006 authorizing the use of Department of Justice fingerprinting for employment in the CV Housing First program**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

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

## **6. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

### **A. CV Housing First: Update on Second Quarter Progress**

Executive Director Tom Kirk and Program Assistant II Anyse Smith provided the staff report, including data on crisis stabilization units, clients who were linked with permanent housing solutions and clients who were not successful in the program. Member discussion ensued.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

## **B. Extension of the CV Housing First Program**

Assistant Executive Director Erica Felci presented the staff report. Member discussion ensued about the program and the impact it was having in the community. The Chair received public comment by Donna Craig of the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation, who inquired about the program's funding status (which was outlined in item 7C).

Members briefly discussed the item, including a time frame, and a motion was made to support the staff recommendation.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARNEVALE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CONTINUE TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO OPERATE THE CV HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM BY CVAG STAFF, INCLUDING REGULAR REPORTING OF PROGRAM METRICS.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

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

## **C. Operations Hub for CV Housing First**

Ms. Felci presented the staff report and detailed the need for office space and operational headquarters for the CV Housing First program. Member discussion ensued and staff addressed questions about how the building would be used and the initial assessment of what it would take to update the facility. Desert Hot Springs Councilmember Jan Pye noted that she supported the use of the building and that, considering the location is near the City, it was being presented to the entire Desert Hot Springs City Council at its next meeting.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR HOLSTEGE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PYE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A LEASE WITH THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, OR OTHER ENTITIES AS NECESSARY, TO ESTABLISH A CV HOUSING FIRST OPERATIONS HUB AT A COUNTY- OR CITY-OWNED FACILITY.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

Councilmember John Preckwinkle III	AYE
Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez	ABSENT

Director Carole Rogers	AYE
Councilmember Jan Pye	AYE
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan	AYE
Mayor Christy Holstege	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend	AYE
Assistant Director Carrie Harmon	AYE

#### **D. Performance Assessment and Gaps Analysis of Riverside County's homeless services**

Greg Rodriguez, contract staff, provided an update on Riverside County's gaps analysis and how this is shaping a strategic vision for the county. Member discussion ensued.

Following up on introductory comments, members noted that the Homelessness Committee should create an ad hoc committee that gathers information and evaluates what other communities, including the City of Los Angeles, are doing to address homeless individuals who are hard to place in current programs or who have refused existing services. The following members indicated an interest in joining the ad hoc: Councilmember Jonathan, Director Carole Rogers, Councilmember Carnevale, Mayor Pro Tem Fermon and Chair Holstege.

#### **E. Election of Homelessness Committee Officers**

Mr. Kirk opened up the floor for officer nominations. A brief member discussion ensued and a motion was made to retain the current officers for another fiscal year.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PYE TO ELECT PALM SPRINGS MAYOR CHRISTY HOLSTEGE AS HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE CHAIR AND LA QUINTA COUNCILMEMBER JOHN PEÑA AS VICE CHAIR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/ 2022.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

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

The Chair called on Ms. Craig, of the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation, who inquired about winter shelter services.

**C. Financial Support for CV Housing First**

**D. Alan Seman Bus Pass Program – Report for FY 2020/2021**

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

Veronica Boswell, branch manager at the Desert Hot Springs Public Library, provided an introduction to the committee and noted how the library could be used to distribute resources on homeless services.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 10 a.m. either via Zoom webinar or in-person.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, September 27, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

**10. ADJOURN** - The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erica Felci*

CVAG Assistant Executive Director