

**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  
City of Cathedral City  
Desert Healthcare District  
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

Councilmember John Preckwinkle III  
Councilmember Mark Carnevale  
Board member Carole Rogers, RN  
Councilmember Jan Pye  
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik  
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon  
Councilmember John Peña, Vice Chair  
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan  
Mayor Christy Holstege  
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend  
Assistant Director Carrie Harmon

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Martha's Village and Kitchen  
Shelter from the Storm  
Home Aid Inland Empire

Linda Barrack  
Angelina Coe  
Julie Reay

**Members and Ex-Officios Not Present**

City of Blythe  
City of Coachella  
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition  
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez  
Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzales  
Alice Salinas  
Darla Burkett

**Others Present**

CVAG

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

CVAG  
CVAG/ Riverside County  
Riverside County

Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation

National CORE

City of La Quinta

Lift to Rise  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Palm Desert

Desert Sun  
Desert Hot Springs Library  
ISCUW  
Individuals

Beverly Newton  
Greg Rodriguez  
Tanya Torno  
Marcus Cannon  
Conrado Barzaga  
Donna Craig  
Tony Mize  
AJ Galka-Gonyeau  
Mayor Linda Evans  
Doug Kinley  
Rubyd Olvera  
Luke Rainey  
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.**

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

## **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.**

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

## **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.**

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Councilmember John Preckwinkle III</b> | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez</b>     | <b>ABSENT</b> |
| <b>Councilmember Mark Carnevale</b>       | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez</b>       | <b>ABSENT</b> |

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

#### **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.**

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

**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