

**Homelessness Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2020**



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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Chair Holstege at 10:02am at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California.
- 2. ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

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	Councilmember Waymond Fermon
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña, Vice Chair
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Sabby Jonathan
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege, Chair
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Charles Townsend
Riverside County District 4	Natalie Komuro
Desert Healthcare District	Leticia De Lara / Carol Rogers

Ex Officio Members Present

Coachella Valley Housing Coalition	Julie Bornstein
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	Darla Burkett
Home Aid Inland Empire	Julie Reay
Martha's Village & Kitchen	Rosa Verduzco
Shelter from the Storm	Angelina Coe

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Gonzalez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon
The Salvation Army	Kristina Starkey

Others Present

California Partnership Riverside County	Erick Lemus
CVAG/Riverside County	Greg Rodriguez
CVAG	Tom Kirk
	Tom Cox
	Libby Carlson
	Erica Felci
CVC Youth Homeless	James Bolas
City of Indian Wells	Kristen Nelson
City of Indio	Mark Scott
City of Rancho Mirage	Marcus Aleman
Desert Aids Project	Bruce Yeager
Desert Healthcare District	Donna Craig
	Dr. Conrado Barzaga

DPSS COC CORE Lift to Rise	Elizabeth Hernandez Heather Vaikona Araceli Palafox
Molina Healthcare Olive Crest Palm Communities Path of Life Ministries	Jacqueline Portilla Julie Jeffery Mitch Slagerman Casey Jackson Jennifer Gonzalez
Riverside County	Natalie Komuro Steve Hernandez
Riverside County Housing Authority RUHS-Behavioral Health	Carrie Harmon Marcus Cannon Rachel Morgan
Riverside County Probation Department	Shelley Vedrode Cristine Castro
Street Life Project Transgender Health and Wellness Center Well In the Desert	Christian Jelmsberg Thomi Clinton Sandra Curry

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by Councilmember Pye.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Christian Jelmsberg, Street Life Project, commented on item 7C.

5. CHAIR / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- Councilmember Jonathan spoke in favor of stronger local control for state funding.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER TOWNSEND AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR ROGERS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

- A. Approve the January 15, 2020 Homeless Committee Meeting Minutes**
- B. Authorize the Executive Director to Issue a Request that Member Jurisdictions Consider Renewing Financial Commitment to CV Housing First in 2020**

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 0 ABSTAIN AND 3 ABSENT.

Councilmember Johnny Gonzalez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	ABSENT
Councilmember Josie Gonzalez	AYE
Councilmember Jan Pye	AYE
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	ABSENT
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege	AYE
Councilmember Charles Townsend	AYE
Director Carol Rogers	AYE
Natalie Komuro	AYE

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

- A. Update on Coachella Valley Collaborative Planning** – Greg Rodriguez provided an progress report on collaborative planning.
- B. Consideration of Legislation to Create Funding Options for Affordable Housing and Related Programs in Coachella Valley** – Erica Felci presented background and options for regional funding for housing, transportation, homelessness, and other projects.

Committee members expressed reservations and concerns regarding legislation, including needed public process.

CVAG staff noted that the recommended action is to begin the process of further exploring the possible legislative options.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PYE AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR ROGERS TO RECOMMEND THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURSUE LEGISLATIVE OPTIONS THAT PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY ON FUNDING SOURCES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS, TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED SERVICES AND PROGRAMS, ALLOWING FOR ANY POTNTIAL MEASURES TO BE EXEMPT FROM LOCAL TAX CAP AND NOT BE ON BALLOT ANY EARLIER THAN 2021.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 0 ABSTAIN AND 3 ABSENT.

Councilmember Johnny Gonzalez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	ABSENT
Councilmember Josie Gonzalez	AYE
Councilmember Jan Pye	AYE
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	ABSENT
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege	AYE
Councilmember Charles Townsend	AYE
Director Carol Rogers	AYE
Natalie Komuro	AYE

- C. Update on City of Palm Springs Plans for Use of \$10M State Funding to Address Homelessness** – Chair Holstege reported that Palm Springs City Council will recommend that a significant portion of the go toward creating more bridge and permanent housing options.
- D. CV Housing First Progress Report** - Tom Cox and Casey Jackson, Path of Life, provided an informational update on CV Housing First Program including The CV100 Homeless Outreach Initiative, Homeless Access Center in Palm Springs, and crisis stabilization housing.

8. INFORMATION – The following items were provided for information only:

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. Ex Officio Updates**

- Darla Burkett, CVRM, provided update on emergency shelter beds in Indio and Palm Springs.; extended an invitation to a graduation event on March 26 at CVRM; and expressed need for long term jobs, housing stock, and diversion money for the homeless.
- Carol Rogers, Desert Healthcare District, spoke regarding needed for showers and toilets for homeless people in Palm Springs.
- Marcus Cannon, Riverside County Behavioral Health, introduced new staff member Rachel Morgan; and provided an update on “No Place Like Home” funding.
- Natalie Komuro, Riverside County Homelessness Solutions, encouraged attendance at Riverside Continuum of Care (COC) Board of Governance (BOG) Strategic Planning Retreat; and provided an update on County funding for homelessness jurisdictions.

C. CVAG Homelessness Fund Financial Report

D. Riverside County 2019 Homelessness Death Report

E. Borrego Health Services at the Homeless Access Center

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Erik Lemus, California Partnership Riverside County, addressed the Committee regarding funding for County’s Housing Disability Advocacy Program and Self-Sufficiency - General Assistance.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming meetings:

- Executive Committee – February 24 at 4:30 pm
- Homelessness Committee – April 15 at 10 am

11. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Cox