

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)
Honolulu International Airport Conference Rooms 3 & 4
Monday, March 19, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Council Attendees:

Mr. Scott Morishige	Chair
Mr. Harold Brackeen III	Administrator of the Homeless Programs Office of DHS
Ms. Catherine Betts for	Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS)
Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Pressler	Director of the Department of Health (DOH)
Ms. Elaine Young for	Director of the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR)
Mr. Russell Suzuki	Attorney General
Ms. Toby Portner for	Superintendent of the Department of Education (DOE)
Ms. Deja Ostrowski for	Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
Representative Cedric Gates	Hawaii State House of Representatives
Senator Josh Green	Hawaii State Senate
Mr. Marc Alexander for	Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu
Mr. Lance Niimi for	Mayor of the County of Hawaii
Mr. Ben Park	Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA)
Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata	Department of Public Safety (PSD)
Mr. Bruce Oliveira	Department of Defense (DOD)
Ms. Crystal Caday-Bargayo	Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai
Ms. Rebecca Borja	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Office of Community Planning & Development
Mr. Andy Dahlburg	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Mr. Dave Rolf	Business Community Representative

Absent:

Faith-Based Representative; Mayor of the County of Kauai; Mayor of the County of Maui; Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT); Continuum of Care for the City & County of Honolulu; Continuum of Care for the County of Hawaii; Continuum of Care for the County of Maui; Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)

Staff:

Mr. Eric Lopez, Homelessness Assistant; Mr. Jason Kasamoto, Homelessness Special Assistant and Public Affairs; Ms. Monica Bailey, Intern; Ms. Lilly Young, Deputy Attorney General

Special Guests:

Dr. Sarah Yuan, University of Hawaii Center on the Family; Ms. Heather Pierucki, Helping Hands Hawaii; Mr. Edward Mersereau, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, Department of Health; Ms. Heather Lusk, The CHOW Project and Life Foundation

- I. **Call to Order. Taking of the Roll.** Roll taken and there was a quorum established with 19 out of 27 members. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by the Chair.

Chair Morishige welcomed everyone and noted that all material was sent out electronically. Council members were asked to sign up at the registration desk if they did not receive handouts in advance of the meeting. Members of the public were also asked to request a copy of materials from staff, and were advised that a sign-up list was available to receive a copy of the meeting packet and handouts by e-mail.

The Chair provided a brief overview of the agenda for today's meeting, and acknowledged the continued progress that the council and other stakeholders are making in addressing homelessness statewide.

- II. **Overview and Approval of Agenda.** The Chair presented the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Senator Green and seconded by Dr. Pressler. The Chair opened the floor for discussion, and seeing none the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- III. **Approval of Minutes.** The Chair reminded members that the December 18, 2017, meeting minutes were included in the members' packets. The Chair provided time for members to review the minutes, and asked if there were any additions/corrections. Noting none, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2017, Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Pressler and seconded by Mr. Brackeen III. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- IV. **Public testimony.** Chair Morishige opened the floor to public testimony. The public was asked to keep testimony limited to no more than one minute.

a. **Mr. Michael Peacock, Hawaii Vet to Vet**

Mr. Peacock said the Council should ask the faith-based community for greater participation in homelessness efforts. It's a big waste of resources when 501(c)(3)'s will not help a family with a safe place to stay, so the Council should look to the governor or someone in leadership to tap into the faith-based community.

b. **Mr. David Cannell**

Mr. Cannell cited the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948, which stated that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including housing. Seventy years later, he hopes lawmakers can do something about homelessness, because nobody should have to endure this "cruel and unusual" punishment.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for either testifier, or any discussion regarding the testimony from the public.

Mr. Alexander expressed his appreciation for Mr. Cannell's testimony, and requested that the Chair note in the minutes that a place "fit for human habitation" is the definition of housing.

The Chair recognized Mr. Alexander's comments, and noted them for the record.

- V. **New Business**

a. **Discussion regarding the Hawaii Pathways Project, including preliminary findings from the final evaluation for the project.**

The Chair provided brief background information regarding the Hawaii Pathways Project, and introduced the following presenters:

- Mr. Eddie Mersereau, DOH, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD)
- Ms. Heather Pierucki, Helping Hands Hawaii
- Dr. Sarah Yuan, University of Hawaii Center on the Family

Presentation by Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division; Helping Hands Hawaii; and University of Hawaii Center on the Family.

The presenters introduced themselves and utilized a short Power Point presentation to share key findings of the Hawaii Pathways Project evaluation.

The Hawaii Pathways Project (HPP) was administered by DOH, ADAD through a three-year federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. HPP aimed to provide:

- Sustainable permanent housing to individuals who meet the required disability conditions;
- Mainstream entitlements such as Medicaid to clients;
- Community-based evidence-based treatment for substance use and psychiatric disorders that is client-driven and recovery-oriented; and
- A variety of recovery resources and supports focusing on peer navigation and support.

Dr. Yuan explained that she is the lead evaluator for HPP. Dr. Yuan shared that HPP was the first project in Hawaii to adopt the evidence-based Pathways Housing First model, which was developed by Dr. Sam Tsemberis in the early 1990s. The final evaluation for HPP reviewed the fidelity of HPP to the evidence-based Pathways Housing First model, as well as other key outcomes related to the overall effectiveness of the program relating to housing and the overall health of consumers.

Dr. Yuan reported the following key program outcomes for HPP:

- 99 clients moved into permanent housing
- The project saw a 90 percent housing retention rate
- Decreases in frequency of clients' health care utilization (ER visits, and inpatient and outpatient procedures) over the past 30 days
- Average reduction in health care costs of \$6,197 per client (based on 30-day self-report baseline and follow-up data)
- Housed clients generally reported better health; fewer physical injuries; greater abstinence from drugs and alcohol; and fewer health, behavior or social consequences from substance use
- Housed clients rebuilt relationships and searched for volunteer and work opportunities
- Through home and community-based intensive case management that included tenancy support, even the most difficult clients of the hard-to-serve population were able to transition successfully from chronic homelessness to stable housing
- At the systems policy level, HPP consulted with the Corporation for Supportive Housing to identify unmet service needs to be addressed through a Medicaid demonstration project and to complete a housing and financial plan for the State to scale permanent supportive housing.

Ms. Pierucki introduced herself as the Director of Behavioral Health for Helping Hands Hawaii, which served as the lead provider agency for HPP. Helping Hands Hawaii also worked collaboratively with Catholic Charities Hawaii and utilized housing vouchers from a number of other local programs. From a provider perspective, Ms. Pierucki shared that key learnings from the project were:

- Without collaborative efforts, it is difficult to achieve results
- Dedication and a commitment of time and effort is required to work with difficult populations
- Timing is key and, in particular, having the flexibility to dedicate time to a specific client's needs.

Ms. Pierucki shared that a key barrier for HPP was a seven-month delay in implementation. She emphasized that HPP was not only dependent on housing being available, but required individualized treatment planning for the consumers receiving service as opposed to a general

'cookie cutter' model of care. In particular, Ms. Pierucki shared that individualized treatment planning was a key focus of the project and required collaboration with a range of service providers, as well as landlords.

Mr. Alexander left the meeting at 10:30 a.m. after the presentation had concluded. Quorum was revised to reflect 18 out of 27 members present.

Discussion and Questions.

The Chair asked if other Housing First models found a similar reduction in healthcare costs as what was identified in the HPP evaluation.

- Dr. Yuan replied in the affirmative, but noted that the percentage of savings varies depending on what type of clients are admitted and the cost of services utilized.
- Ms. Pierucki reported that HPP had extremely low barriers to entry, and noted that it is important to look at the acuity of each individual and the frequency of case management when evaluating healthcare cost savings.

The Chair noted that the State Housing First program has been historically funded on a year to year basis, and that the City Housing First program is also funded on a year to year basis. The Chair asked about the importance of stability for participants in the Housing First program.

- Dr. Yuan noted that stable housing contributes to improved health and psychological stability for participants.
- Ms. Pierucki stated that permanency in housing was one of the most impactful parts of the project for participants.

The Chair asked what the impact on a Housing First participant would be if funding is not stable and if funding for Housing First were to stop.

- Ms. Pierucki shared that if you break off one piece, everything will fall apart. She stated that when a participant believes that their housing is not stable, it feels like something is being taken away from them.
- Mr. Mersereau shared that the impact of a participant losing housing goes beyond just the individual and has a larger exponential impact on the broader system and society at-large. Mr. Mersereau described a chain reaction that can occur that can impact the stability of other systems if basic living needs are not met.

Ms. Ostrowski commented that she is grateful for HPP, and noted that 42% of the participants in HPP appeared to be of Native Hawaiian descent. She noted that the Point in Time count for the island of Oahu indicated that approximately 55% of Native Hawaiians homeless individuals on Oahu do not utilize any homeless services. Ms. Ostrowski added that because the number of Native Hawaiians that utilize shelter services is low, there appears to be a need for other types of homeless services to address the needs of this population. Ms. Ostrowski noted support for further expansion of Housing First and permanent supportive housing programs, particularly for Native Hawaiians experiencing homelessness.

Ms. Borja asked a clarifying question regarding the 35 HPP participants who were not housed, and questioned whether they were not housed due to a lack of physical housing units or due to a lack of housing vouchers.

- Dr. Yuan and Ms. Pierucki both acknowledged a shortage of housing vouchers.
- Ms. Pierucki stated there is a need both for additional housing vouchers and additional housing inventory. She added that the collaborative nature of HPP was critical to maximize housing and vouchers from a variety of partners during the course of the project, and many of the 35 participants were eventually housed through other programs.

Representative Gates asked about Ohana Zones and their role in addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Representative Gates mentioned that the House of

Representatives has included \$30 million in funding in the House draft of the State budget bill for the implementation of Ohana Zones. Representative Gates further stated he was uncertain of the level of funding provided in previous years for the State Housing First program and other similar programs.

- Chair Morishige clarified that in State Fiscal Year 2017-2018, the State budget included a \$3 million appropriation for the State Housing First program.
- Mr. Brackeen III clarified the level of funding provided for State Housing First. In State Fiscal Year 2015-2016, a total amount of \$1.5 million had been appropriated for the State Housing First program, of which \$1.25 million was contracted out for services on Oahu. In State Fiscal Year 2016-2017, the DHS Homeless Programs Office received a lump sum appropriation of \$12 million for homeless services, of which \$3 million was allocated to the State Housing First program - \$1.5 million for Oahu and \$1.5 million for the neighbor islands. In State Fiscal Year 2017-2018, a total amount of \$3 million was appropriated for the State Housing First program, and the intention is for \$1.5 million to be contracted out for services on Oahu and \$1.5 million to be contracted out for services on the neighbor islands.
- Mr. Brackeen III encouraged council members to support a broad range of homeless and housing programs funded through the State budget, and stated that homelessness cannot be addressed solely through funding for Ohana Zones. In addition to funding for homeless services, Mr. Brackeen III noted the importance of funding for housing development, as well as for renovation of public housing units. Mr. Brackeen III shared that there would be a large impact on the homeless service system if other areas are not adequately funded.
- Chair Morishige further clarified that the \$30 million referenced by Representative Gates is Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding, as opposed to operating funds. The Chair noted that Housing First and other programs are typically funded through the operating budget, while construction and infrastructure are typically funded through the CIP budget.
- Dr. Yuan replied that the chronically homeless population is difficult to serve due to the high level of vulnerability of this group. She noted that chronically homeless individuals have a wide range of needs, and noted the importance to invest in a continuum of care that serves a broad spectrum of need as opposed to funding only one specific type of intervention. There is no one “single bullet” to address chronic homelessness.

Representative Gates asked an additional question in regard to the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) scores used to prioritize homeless individuals for services in the Coordinated Entry System (CES). Specifically, Representative Gates wanted to know what services are available and offered for people who have a score of 7 or below on the VI-SPDAT.

- Mr. Brackeen III asked the Chair if he could respond to the question. Mr. Brackeen III explained that the VI-SPDAT is an assessment tool that assigns a score to triage individuals and households experiencing homelessness into three general “buckets” of service:
 - **0-3: The Prevention Diversion group.**
 - These individuals use housing placement, state emergency grants or rapid rehousing to keep them housed and prevent them from becoming homeless
 - Or working homeless, who are able to tap into the same resources
 - **4-7: Rapid rehousing, transitional housing**
 - You need a bit more assistance and resources, and more time to maximize these resources. In general, individuals require between 3-12 months of service, as opposed to long-term ongoing services.
 - **8 and above: Permanent supportive housing**
 - This general includes individuals with a higher level of need who require ongoing housing and supportive services.
- Representative Gates thanked Mr. Brackeen III for the clarification, and explained his question was in response to concerns shared from service providers in his district. In

particular, the providers were concerned that it is difficult to access housing resources for individuals with a score of 7 or below on the VI-SPDAT, and they were concerned about waiting for an individual to become "chronically homeless" and having a higher score before resources are offered.

- Mr. Brackeen III clarified that the range of other homeless services funded through DHS assist in addressing the needs of individuals and households that score in the 0-3 or 4-7 range on the VI-SPDAT. In addition, he mentioned that street outreach is critical in identifying homeless individuals and households and assessing them for the appropriate level of service. Civil legal services are also critical to assist these individuals and households in obtaining government-issued identification, which is often a requirement to obtain housing.
- Mr. Brackeen III noted that the VI-SPDAT is just one component of the CES, which has been adopted by the Continuum of Care (CoC). The intent of the CES is to prioritize the most vulnerable individuals for services on a By Name List (BNL), rather than to provide services on a "first come, first serve" basis. He explained that, prior to the CES, individuals may have been connected to services that were more intensive than what may be necessary based on an individual's level of need.
- Chair Morishige further clarified that other homeless services not currently included in the House draft of the State budget are Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, and the Family Assessment Center, which provide support to homeless individuals across the broader continuum of need. The Chair noted that there are still a number of bills being considered that include blank appropriations for these items, although they are not currently included in the House draft of the budget.
- Mr. Brackeen stated that there is an opportunity during this legislative session to fund projects like the Family Assessment Center, and mentioned that assessment centers could serve as an alternative for Safe Zones or Ohana Zones. Similar to street outreach, the Family Assessment Center serves as an access point to the CES and as a means of identifying and assessing homeless households.

At 11:00 a.m., following the discussion, Senator Green left the meeting.

Quorum was revised to reflect 17 out of 27 members present. A minimum of 14 out of 27 members is required for quorum.

b. Discussion regarding the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) pilot project.

The Chair provided brief background information regarding the Hawaii Pathways Project, and introduced the following presenters:

- Mr. Eddie Mersereau, DOH, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD)
- Ms. Heather Lusk, The CHOW Project and Life Foundation

Presentation by Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division; and The CHOW Project and Life Foundation.

The presenters introduced themselves and utilized a short Power Point presentation to provide back information and an overview of the LEAD pilot project and the LEAD hui. In addition, Mr. Mersereau and Ms. Lusk distributed a fact sheet regarding the LEAD pilot project to members of the council.

Ms. Lusk explained that The CHOW Project and Life Foundation have been contracted by DOH to administer the LEAD pilot project. The LEAD project is also supported by a coalition of over 30 other organizations, which include the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), ALEA Bridge, CARE Hawaii, City & County of Honolulu, Community Alliance on Prisons, Drug Policy

Forum of Hawaii, Harm Reduction Hawaii, Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, Helping Hands Hawaii, Hina Mauka, Institute for Human Services, Ku Aloha ola Mau, Mental Health America of Hawaii, Partners in Care, PHOCUSED, The Salvation Army, Susannah Wesley Community Center, We are Oceania, Waikiki Health, and others.

Ms. Lusk shared that the LEAD pilot project will officially begin in early April 2018, and is funded for one year with \$200,000 from DOH. The project is designed to assist law enforcement officers in working with people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable individuals to keep them out of the criminal justice system. In addition, the LEAD project is designed to reduce public costs related to criminal justice, such as the cost for court hearing, prosecution, and incarceration.

LEAD has six primary goals: (1) *Reorient* government response to safety, disorder, and health-related problems; (2) *Improve* public safety and public health through research based, health-oriented and harm reduction interventions; (3) *Reduce* the number of people entering the criminal justice system for low level offenses related to drug use, mental health sex work, and extreme poverty; (4) *Undo* racial disparities at the front end of the criminal justice system; (5) *Sustain* funding for alternative interventions by capturing and reinvesting justice system savings; and (6) *Strengthen* relationship between law enforcement and the community.

In other communities, LEAD has demonstrated positive results. For example, an independent evaluation by the University of Washington for the Seattle LEAD program found: Cost savings of about \$350 per month per participant; 40% of homeless participants obtained permanent housing; 55% of participants received chemical dependency treatment; 49% of participants engaged in mental health treatment; and 54% of participants received assistance with ID. The evaluation of the Seattle LEAD program also found that out of 338 enrolled clients, 82% were homeless.

Ms. Lusk shared that the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) reviewed data in 2015 and found that 43% of individuals arrested were experiencing homelessness, and 61% reported mental health issues or substance use. The Honolulu LEAD project is designed to provide more discretion to law enforcement officers in handling incidents involving people with mental health or substance use issues and provides officers with additional options as an alternative to arrest.

The Honolulu LEAD project will operate in Chinatown in HPD District 1, Sector 1. Ms. Lusk shared that the LEAD project received unanimous support from the Chinatown Neighborhood Board, and that the Honolulu City Council passed a resolution with unanimous support for LEAD. The LEAD hui has been working closely with the HPD and the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office to finalize inclusion and exclusion criteria for LEAD. LEAD will work in tandem with three complementary programs: (1) HELP Honolulu; (2) Adult Mental Health Division Jail Diversion Program; and (3) Community Outreach Court. The intent is for HPD to do a warm handoff to LEAD case management staff within 30 minutes of encountering an individual, and that the participant will have 30 days to pursue the referral.

Finally, Ms. Lusk and Mr. Mersereau shared that LEAD will include an evaluation component, and that she is working closely with Dr. Jack Bariles at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in regard to the evaluation. The evaluation will not focus solely on who receives services, but will also look at the barriers in identifying housing, and what are service and systems gaps related to implementation of the program. Mr. Mersereau stressed the importance of piloting and evaluating the LEAD project before scaling the project statewide.

Discussion and Questions

Chair Morishige asked what the impact on the LEAD program would be if the funding for various homelessness programs in the State budget bill, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing, remain zeroed out. The Chair added that LEAD appears to be a referral program, and also asked if the other programs described are programs that LEAD staff may potentially refer to.

- Ms. Lusk stated that there would be an impact on the LEAD project, and that the project would make referrals to the programs described to connect participants to permanent housing.
- Mr. Mersereau added that, if the homeless programs in the budget remain zeroed out, it would make the efforts of the LEAD project moot.

Mr. Dahlburg asked if the project currently has an office in the Chinatown area.

- Ms. Lusk responded that HPD is currently working to obtain office space for the LEAD and HELP Honolulu projects. She added that this space will be utilized by staff from The CHOW Project and Life Foundation, Kalihi-Palama Health Center, and the Institute for Human Services. The office space is located in two storefronts near the HPD Chinatown substation.
- Mr. Dahlburg shared that the VA may have outreach workers that could also assist, and Ms. Lusk responded that she is open to exploring future collaboration.

Ms. Ostrowski commented that OHA has been opposed to the criminalization of homelessness and added that Native Hawaiians are overrepresented both in the criminal justice system and among people experiencing homelessness. In particular, Ms. Ostrowski noted that 43% of individuals in cell block awaiting hearings are Native Hawaiian, and that these individuals have not yet been convicted of any crime. She noted that the discussion of Safe Zones and Ohana Zones came about because of activities that criminalize people experiencing homelessness because homeless individuals have no place to go when their activities are criminalized. She added that OHA has supported LEAD and other similar programs because they provide homeless individuals with alternative options to criminalization, and that there may not be as much of a need for Safe Zones or Ohana Zones if more funding was prioritized for LEAD and other programs that connect people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing. OHA would prefer supporting programs, such as LEAD, that provide law enforcement officers with tools to connect homeless individuals to resources and divert them from the jail and prison system. She noted the high costs of incarceration and that the State's jails and prisons are severely overcrowded. Ms. Ostrowski mentioned that no other State agency has voiced these points, and that it is important to continue support for programs like LEAD.

Chair Morishige briefly summarized the presentations related to the Hawaii Pathways Project and LEAD. In general, the Chair noted that both programs center on a collaborative, community-based approach. In addition, evaluations of both projects have demonstrated significant public cost savings. The Chair also noted that, based on the discussion, both the Hawaii Pathways Project and LEAD appear to rely heavily on other existing programs in order to be effective. While both Hawaii Pathways Project and LEAD appear to be promising programs, these efforts cannot be successful without equal investment in other programs across the homeless continuum, such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach, and other similar programs.

c. Discussion regarding the potential implementation of Ohana Zones as a strategy to address homelessness.

The Chair provided a brief overview of the Ohana Zone concept as background for the members. In particular, the Chair noted two current bills that are still moving through the Legislature – HB2281 and HB2753 – that include blank appropriations for implementation of an Ohana Zone. The Chair also noted that the House version of the State budget includes \$30 million in Capital Improvement Project funding for the construction and development of Ohana Zones. In addition, there are similar measures, HB2014 and SB2501, that would establish and appropriate funding for Puuhonua Villages and Safe Zones respectively. Because there are several bills related to Ohana Zones and similar concepts, the Chair included this item on the agenda to facilitate discussion among the members.

Discussion and Questions

Chair Morishige asked members to refer to the "Touchpoints of Homelessness" report included in the members packets. On page 39, the report outlines a list of recommendations, which include: (1) Designating certain homeless encampments as partner sites or community partners; (2) Using feedback and ideas from homeless individuals to inform solutions; (3) Redesigning existing services to meet homeless individuals where they are, such as in encampments; (4) Build the capacity of homelessness service providers to make relationships the top priority; (5) End policies that criminalize poverty and addiction and acknowledge that criminalization policies only serve to deepen homelessness; and (6) Relax building rules to allow for affordable tiny homes as permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness. The Chair notes that the first five recommendations, in particular, make a case for moving away from "compassionate disruption" and enforcement-oriented strategies to address homelessness and moving toward recognizing the strengths of existing homelessness encampments with a strong sense of "Ohana" or community as a strategy to address homelessness.

The Chair posed a question to members as to whether the Ohana Zone concept is in conflict with the State's overall approach to addressing homelessness, which focuses on permanent housing and investing in housing-focused strategies. The Chair acknowledged that the question of "where should people go?" continues to come up in discussions regarding homelessness, and that Ohana Zones may offer an answer to that question.

Representative Gates shared that, after discussion with House leadership, HB2281 appears to be the vehicle that will be moving forward to establish Ohana Zones. Representative Gates clarified that, in addition to funding for Ohana Zones, HB2281 also includes appropriations for assessment center and other programs – including Housing First and Rapid Rehousing – to address homelessness. He emphasized that, in discussion with the House Finance Chair, the items related to homelessness in the House version of the budget were zeroed out in order to allow for further discussion with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and homeless service providers about which programs were most effective in helping to meet the community's goal of reducing homelessness. Representative Gates clarified that the intention of the House is not to de-fund existing programs that have been effective, but instead to take time to better understand the level of need in terms of services and funding.

Representative Gates further shared that in his perspective as the legislator for the leeward coast of Oahu, he has seen that the Puuhonua O Waianae homeless encampment provides a safe place to stay for an estimated 200 people in his district. Representative Gates introduced Ohana Zone legislation to replicate the Puuhonua O Waianae for other homeless communities in his district, and to provide the flexibility for nonprofit organizations to bring up these types of programs more quickly than if it was left alone to government to do so. He noted that the House Committee on Finance recently conducted a site visit to the Kahauiki Village project on Oahu, and that the developer Mr. Duane Kurisu stressed the importance of the Governor declaring an emergency proclamation related to homelessness. Representative Gates shared that Mr. Kurisu spoke about the effectiveness of the emergency proclamation in accelerating development processes, and how the proclamation enabled the development of Kahauiki Village to take place in only six months.

Ms. Ostrowski shared that, while OHA respects the efforts of the State House, that her agency has concerns about the Kahauiki Village project and similar efforts and had submitted public testimony raising concerns. In particular, Ms. Ostrowski noted that an existing tenant on the Kahauiki Village that paid rent was evicted from the parcel in order to make way for the development of Kahauiki Village. Ms. Ostrowski further noted that the City & County of Honolulu alone spent an estimated \$4.5 million in public funds for infrastructure to support Kahauiki Village, and that the rents at the project are as high as \$950 per month. Ms. Ostrowski raised the policy question of whether providing funding for projects, such as

Kahauiki Village or Ohana Zones, is a higher priority than providing funding for permanent rental housing projects. Specifically, Ms. Ostrowski noted that the House reduced the funding request for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) and Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (DURF), while also prioritizing capital improvement project funding for Ohana Zones. The concern is that the RHRF and DURF support long-term rental housing, which is needed to address a statewide shortage of affordable housing inventory.

Ms. Ostrowski asked council members to consider how temporary solutions are balanced against more long-term solutions to address housing and homelessness. She also noted that policy makers need to look at how better to “grow the pie” of funding to address homelessness, rather than moving funding around “within the pie.” In addition, Ms. Ostrowski raised concern about looking at individual projects to address needs in specific communities, rather than looking at statewide or broader systemic needs. She cautioned against increasing housing supply in areas such as Sand Island – where both the Kahauiki Village and the City & County of Honolulu’s Hale Mauliola navigation center are located – that may not be suitable for residential use due to flooding and other environmental justice concerns.

Mr. Dahlburg commented that discussions regarding housing inventory should include the private sector, and should be following national trends and “best practices” to address homelessness. He noted that the VA just added 50 new permanent housing units in Kalaeloa on Oahu due to a partnership with the private sector. Mr. Dahlburg shared that people in Hawaii often comment that “Hawaii is different,” but the programs and approaches that are proven to work elsewhere also provide lessons on how we address the same issues locally.

Representative Gates asked if Mr. Niimi could share his thoughts related to Ohana Zones.

- Mr. Niimi shared that Mayor Harry Kim’s approach to homelessness has focused on two main points: (1) There is a need to regulate situations of homelessness due to health and safety concerns; and (2) When authorities regulate situations of homelessness, there needs to be an alternative location where homeless individuals can be redirected or relocated to. Mr. Niimi emphasized that Hawaii County has focused on developing alternative locations for the homeless population, particularly in Kona on Hawaii Island. He noted that there are “always issues” when it comes to funding, and that policy makers need to look at how funding is divided between Oahu and the neighbor islands, as well as at how funding for Ohana Zones may impact funding for other programs. Mr. Niimi shared that Hawaii County is providing testimony in support of HB2014 and HB2753.

The Chair shared information about the cost of some of the City & County of Honolulu’s modular housing projects for homeless individuals and families to provide context for council members regarding the cost of similar projects. The Chair noted that a modular housing project on Farrington Highway in Waianae cost between \$5-6 million for 15 modular housing units that could accommodate up to 80 people at a given time. The Chair shared that infrastructure costs and zoning are significant concerns for these types of projects, as many vacant government land parcels are not zoned for residential use. The Chair further noted that other factors to be considered include whether parcels are located near waterways, may have archaeological artifacts on site, and whether there is road access.

- In response, Representative Gates shared that the House is looking at photovoltaic systems to reduce utility cost, and is looking at the concept of mobile hygiene units.
- Chair Morishige shared that for the City & County of Honolulu’s Hale Mauliola navigation center, the cost of maintaining toilets and showers alone is between \$400,000 to \$500,000 annually.

The Chair asked if there were any further questions or comments and, seeing none, Chair Morishige thanked the members for the robust discussion on Ohana Zones.

VI. **Permitted Interaction Group**

- a. **Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to review and recommend potential revisions to the ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness, and the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness.**

The Chair updated the council that the discussions of this permitted interaction group are still ongoing. The Chair noted that there has been emphasis over the past two years primarily on building out the human services and public safety components of the State Framework to Address Homelessness. Moving forward, the Chair shared that the permitted interaction group will focus on strategies to address housing, and specifically on how government may better maximize assets such as land.

VII. **General Announcements**

A. Chairperson and Staff Reports: December 2017/January 2018/February 2018

The Chair shared the staff report for the period from December 2017 through February 2018. The Chair highlighted that staff has been busy with the legislative session, and have submitted 93 separate pieces of testimony on bills and resolutions relating to homelessness. The Chair further shared staffing changes within the office and noted that Emma Grochowsky has been hired as the new Community Development Specialist effective March 20, 2018, and that the Administrative Assistant on Homelessness position is in active recruitment.

B. Written Reports from Council Members.

The following written updates are provided for the Council's consideration and review (the full write-ups for each representative will be provided):

- *Department of Human Services (DHS)*
- *Department of Public Safety (PSD)*
- *Department of Health (DOH)*
- *Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)*
- *Department of Defense (DOD)*
- *Department of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)*
- *Department of Education (DOE)*
- *Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA)*
- *City & County of Honolulu*
- *County of Hawaii*
- *County of Maui*
- *County of Kauai*

- *Partners in Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care*
- *Continuum of Care – Hawaii Island*
- *Continuum of Care – Maui County*
- *Continuum of Care – Kauai County*
- *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.)*
- *U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)*
- *Faith-based Community Representative*

VIII. **Executive session**

Pursuant to H.R.S. §92-7(a), the Council may, when deemed necessary, hold an Executive Session on any agenda item without the written public notice if the Executive Session was not anticipated in advance. Any such Executive Session shall be held pursuant to H.R.S. §92-4 and shall be limited to those items described in H.R.S. §92-5(a). Discussions held in Executive Session are closed to the public.

The Chair stated that an Executive Session is not necessary at this time.

IX. **Topics for upcoming meetings.**

The Chair asked members to contact his office with suggestions for upcoming meetings. The office can be reached at 586-0193 or by e-mail at gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov.

X. **Meeting schedule.**

The following Council meetings are proposed for the 2018 calendar year:

- June 18, 2018, 10 a.m. to noon
- September 17, 2018, 10 a.m. to noon
- December 17, 2018, 10 a.m. to noon

XI. **Adjourn.**

Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Dr. Pressler and seconded by Mr. Russell Suzuki. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes prepared by:



Jason Kasamoto
Homelessness Special Assistant and Public Affairs

7-6-18

Date

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at their Regular Meeting on June 18, 2018:
 As Presented As Amended



Scott S. Morishige, MSW
Chair

7/6/18

Date