

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HEALING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
ON-LINE VIA BLUEJEANS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hudson at 1:32 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Wendy Hudson, Chair

Faith Chase

John Decker

John Tomoso

Lisa Darcy

Mary Trotto

Joyce Kawakami

Scott Hansen

Excused:

George Kaimiola, Vice-Chair

Zhantell Lindo

Present Staff:

David Nakama, Homeless Program Coordinator

Mimi Desjardins, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Daniel Kunkel, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Pili Nahooikaika, Secretary

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was presented.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Unite Hawaii, United US Program

Chair Tomoso suggested that the Commission look into requesting reports regularly from Unite Hawaii as to how effective the system is and how it is helping our jurisdiction.

Commissioner Hansen expressed that unless a good amount of organizations adopt and start using Unite Hawaii, we're not going to know how useful it is. He clarified that it requires as many people as possible in the community to use it to see how effective it is. Commissioner Kawakami added that she and Commissioner Hansen will collaborate and share their views on the program at a later date.

- Cost of Government Commission Report on the Homelessness Problem
Member Tomoso informed the Commission that he testified at the Cost of Government Commission meeting on January 13, 2022. He added that he testified as a member of the Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness and he spoke of transformational matters focusing on healing.

Commissioner Darcy informed the Commission that she also provided testimony and encouraged the rest of the members to do the same. She shared that that a piece of the report addressed that there haven't been any reasonable amount of growth in supporting shelter or space for people to have safety.

Temporary Investigative Group Status Updates

- Resource Mapping TIG (End Date April 28, 2022) – Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Members Chase, Kawakami, Hansen and Trotto
No updates to report.
- Street Medical/Mental Team TIG (End Date April 28, 2022) – Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Members Kawakami, Chase, Hansen, and Trotto
No updates to report.
- Monthly Reporting TIG (End Date March 25, 2022) – Vice Chair Kaimiola and members Kawakami, Chase, Hansen and Trotto
No updates to report.
- Diversified Housing Solutions TIG – Members Darcy, Decker, Lindo, Tomoso, and Chase
No updates to report.
- Social and Community Impacts TIG – Members Darcy, Decker, Kawakami, Tomoso, and Chase
No updates to report.
- Sustainable Housing TIG – Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Members Chase, Decker, and Darcy
Member Chase discussed a platform tool to use to upload information to with regards to Sustainable Housing. The TIG will be meeting next month to discuss further.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- End Dates to the Temporary Investigative Groups
The Commission approved end dates for the following TIG's:

- Diversified Housing Solutions, December 31, 2022
- Social and Community Impacts, December 31, 2022
- Sustainable Housing, June 30, 2022
- Hawaii Tax Collections
Commissioner Tomoso reviewed the Civil Beat article that discussed a projection of over 8 billion dollars in revenue. He added that at the beginning of this regular session the State Legislature talked about how this is an opportunity for homeless, affordable housing and social needs can be met. Chair Hudson suggested drafting a letter to Speaker Saiki and Senate President Kouchi. Commissioner Chase called in favor of writing a simple letter introducing the Maui County Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness to the State Legislature. Chair Hudson offered to draft the letter and add to the next meeting agenda.
- The New York Times article “The Bill for My Homelessness Was \$54,000
Commissioner Decker brought the article to the Commission’s attention and highlighted on the role of mental illness and how various medical facilities need to be more aware of it in addition to the homeless population themselves.
- Sunshine Law Amendments Allowing Remote Meetings UPDATE
Deputy Corporation Counsel Kunkel informed the Commission that Governor Ige’s Emergency Proclamation Related to Sunshine Law In-Person Meetings have been extended until February 28, 2022.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT

Commissioner Chase will bring forth to the Commission the discussion of the Charter Commission with regards to specific Boards and Commissions that follow ordinance and do not follow ordinance.

Commissioner Darcy emphasized the importance of securing a remote meeting location for the houseless community to attend these Commission meetings.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hudson adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m. No motions made or votes taken.