

COMMISSION ON HEALING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
ON-LINE VIA BLUEJEANS
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lindo at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present as noted below:

Present:

Zhantell Lindo, Chair (in person)
Rochelle Kim Tempo, Vice Chair (in person)
Lisa Darcy (in person)
Lisa Ann Kahaleauki (in person)
Charleen Naomi Crozier
Eyke Brath Hurdman
Leonani Pahukoa Meyer (in person)
Jewelyn Kahele
Vince Razo (joined in person at 1:47 p.m.)

Excused:

John Tomoso
Nena Hart

Present Staff:

Lori Tsuhako, Director of Housing & Human Concerns
Mariana Lowy-Gerstmar, Deputy Corporation Counsel (DCC)
Christopher Kish, Acting Homeless Program Coordinator
Kimberly Ferguson, Secretary

1. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL ITEMS

In-person Testimony

Jasee Law on item #2A.i: Described the challenges he faced as a houseless individual. Suggested commission propose a law to require churches to allow houseless to reside on their land and use their facilities as a possible solution. Also asked that the term “homeless” be changed to “houseless” for people in Hawaii as he felt the word was derogatory.

Chair Lindo: Explained that the term “Homelessness” was included in the Commission’s name as a way to encompass the holistic issue; not just referring to shelter, but the need for compassion and possibly passing legislation that would help those with mental and physical illnesses, and reconnecting with family and the aina in mind.

Mr. Law: Responded that the word homeless stands out and people think of the worst of the worst. Chair Lindo then asked what the commission could do to assist and offered to speak with Mr. Law after the meeting.

Jason Schwarz on item #2A.i: Described his personal experience with a houseless individual who he has been trying to assist. Asked for the commission’s assistance and offered to serve as media source to report what’s going on with the commission.

Vice Chair Tempo: Asked Mr. Schwarz a few questions related to the assistance he was requesting and then offered to meet with him after the meeting.

Mber Rose Love on item #2A.i: Testified that she’s been interested in homelessness for a long time. Stated when she saw this commission, she decided she was going to start going around to homeless shelters and places that offer services to see what was available on Maui. Did so and found it enlightening. Described her personal experience with a friend who is houseless and inquired about availability of public hygiene stations on island. Also pitched the idea of the government purchasing land to dedicate to the homeless for compartment housing.

Chair Lindo: Asked about the location of the mobile hygiene units (MHU). Commissioners Razo and Darcy responded that Maui Food Bank, Maui Rescue Mission, and the Salvation Army have MHU available to the public.

Commissioner Darcy: Asked Chair Lindo for clarification regarding testifying on items not listed on the agenda. Chair Lindo responded that testimony had to do with homeless and so she allowed it. Commissioner Darcy stated for the record she wanted constituents to hear the explanation as it contradicted the process she informed them of prior.

RandyMae Kaawai on item #2A.i: Stated she was homeless and living on Maui is expensive. Explained challenges she faced as a houseless individual and asked for the Mayor’s help with assisting the houseless.

Chair Lindo: Asked if she would move home. Ms. Kaawai responded that her family was here.

Commissioner Darcy: Commented that having the mayor's office voice and their presence in the work of the commission is very important to everyone. Stated perhaps asking DHHC to have more of a presence in terms of letting the commission know what the mayor's office is doing because the commission is not getting a lot of information. Asked what

procedures are needed and if there were legal opportunities for the commission so that the administration is aware of the commission's work.

Video testimony:

Faith Chase on item #2A.i: Spoke about her work in a Temporary Investigative Group (TIG) as a former commissioner. Requested identifying county land that could be used for temporary housing be added as an agenda topic. Felt doing so would serve as a common denominator which would allow everyone to have the same attitude toward healing solutions. Also commented that she learned that the "landlord summit" was being changed to a "housing summit". Felt that landlords need support and if the traditional landlord summit would not be held, she hoped the commission could fill the gap.

Chair Lindo: Acknowledged that the mayor is working on identifying land. Then commented that she felt it would be beneficial if the commission was included in communications with the administration and council on homeless/houseless resolutions or projects versus having to learn about it via social media. Suggested perhaps the commission could entertain a recommendation to the administration and council that mandates that the commission be included and/or at least try to enforce it.

Vice Chair Tempo: Informed Ms. Chase that the title was changed to a Housing Resource Summit and that the planning committee is entertaining education for landlords although no firm agenda has been set.

Ms. Chase: Commented that a prior recommendation made by the commission regarding forgiving citations was addressed to the wrong department, and no one was aware until the Police Chief stated so in Council.

Chair Lindo: Responded that was why she did not support the original recommendation and stated that commissioners have a responsibility to do their homework and talk to all parties involved so the most efficient and effective recommendations are put forth.

Ms. Chase was later allowed to testify prior to agenda item 2B in regard to the 6-day posting requirement for meeting notices/agendas and also prior to item #3 regarding suggesting the commission use introductory language used by Chair Paltin in her DRIP committee.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Training by Deputy Corporation Counsel Mariana Lowy-Gerstmar
DCC Lowy-Gerstmar shared PowerPoint presentations which reviewed and explained the following items related to the business of the Commission:
 - i. Maui County Code (MCC) Chapter 2.31
 - ii. Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness
 - iii. Sunshine Law

Discussion on item i:

Chair Lindo: Explained the intended definition of the word “kauhale” in MCC 2.31.50 and how it differed from the definition and usage under the Governor’s planned kauhale projects. DCC Lowy-Gerstmar suggested perhaps Council could send some sort of communication to the Governor explaining how the word is used in the MCC.

Chair Lindo: Requested clarification on the annual report requirement. DCC Lowy-Gerstmar responded that she was not sure if it applied only to the first year, but it may be a good resource if not to make recommendations, maybe the commission could do some sort of presentation just to start the dialogue.

Discussion on item ii:

Chair Lindo: Commented that it feels as though the commission is not being taken seriously and referred to a lack of response regarding recommendations previously set forth. Asked DCC Lowy-Gerstmar what she thought could be done to change that.

DCC Lowy Gerstmar: Replied the way that it’s currently structured in the county code as written only allows the commission to make recommendations; however, commission could go through the council and try to make changes to the ordinance.

Discussion on item iii:

Chair Lindo: Asked for clarification regarding TIG meeting requirements.

DCC Lowy-Gerstmar: Explained that deliberation and decision making, if there's any, has to happen after there is any presentation and that it may take more than one meeting.

B. Chair's Internal Procedures for Commissioners Regarding Business of the Commission

Chair Lindo informed the members of the internal procedures she would be using to conduct the business of the commission (copy attached)

3. DHHC Updates and Communication

Acting Homeless Program Coordinator Christopher Kish provided the following updates to the Commission:

- 1) The street medicine program was formally transmitted to the department by this commission as a recommendation for implementation following a period of program design and development. DHHC has executed a grant with Malama I Ke Ola for Street Medicine program that will pair medical personnel from Malama with homeless outreach services. DHHC is in the process of working out the operational details with the parties involved and will share outcomes of the pilot project as it moves forward.
- 2) DHHC conducted a procurement for the Comprehensive Homeless Plan and selected vendor Eco Northwest. DHHC is in the final stages of contract execution.

Department will be confirming with the vendor and requesting time on the commission's June meeting agenda for a presentation by the vendor.

- 3) In the department's FY24 budget (barring changes at the second reading) approximately \$188,550 from the homeless program allocation has been set aside by proviso for mobile water stations and mobile medical services. Currently, no provider has been identified in the budget so the department will be issuing a solicitation for this service in the new fiscal year.
- 4) As a reminder, commissioners and members of the public may access data and reports about homelessness and outcomes at www.btghawaii.org

Discussion:

Chair Lindo: Asked if there was a deadline to use the \$188,550 earmarked for the mobile water stations and medical services before the funds lapse, in the event DHHC is not able to find someone to run the project.

Mr. Kish: Responded that the FY24 budget has not yet been finalized and clarified that when it is, if funds are not designated to a specific agency to try and undertake the project, DHHC would issue an RFP to solicit the services.

Chair Lindo: Asked if there was room in the language to expand the purpose or was it specific to water stations.

Mr. Kish: Asked Chair Lindo if she could direct her questions to Director Tsuhako in writing as he was not sure.

Commissioner Darcy: Shared her understanding of the FY23 project that was run by Project Vision with \$50K in funding and asked how the medical aspect got added in and if it was changed.

Mr. Kish: Responded that the language was proposed by Council.

DCC Lowy-Gerstmar: Offered to find out the information requested by commission.

4. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lindo adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

Link to recording:

<https://bluejeans.com/playback/s/uabAmDriADMsmBcryfKwmPYgUWsJhQRMf6yZR4hWz66svumFbGmCVUbxM9ZBqIPc>

Internal Procedures for Commissioners Regarding Business of the Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness

For Testimonies:

- Members to the Public shall have (3) minutes to testify on agenda items. Testimony can be done in writing, in person or virtually.
- Commissioners will be given the opportunity to ask **one round of clarifying** questions to each testifier. Questions will be limited to **(1) minute** and can only be to request clarification from the testifier, DHHC or Corp. Counsel.

For Presentations/Agenda Items:

- Each presenter or commissioner who requested the agenda item, will have a total of 5 minutes to give a presentation or make opening comments. (3 additional minutes can be given upon request)
- Following the opening comments, each commissioner will be afforded a (3) minute round to make statements, comments, ask questions, etc. as it pertains to the agenda item being discussed. The buzzer will start when a commissioner is recognized and will sound to signify the end of their (3) minutes.
- An additional round of discussion may be requested after every commissioner has had a chance to comment. The follow up round will also be limited to (3) minutes per commissioner.

Action or No Action by the Commission:

- At the end of the discussion period, the chair will notify the commission if action needs to be taken on the item or not. If action is needed the chair will entertain a motion, and the commission can decide to approve, deny, or defer the motion(s) on the floor.