

COMMISSION ON HEALING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS (CHSH)
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
ON-LINE VIA BLUEJEANS
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 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 Commissioners

In-person Attendees:

Zhantell Lindo, Chair
Rochelle Kim Tempo, Vice Chair
Lisa Darcy
Jewelyn Kahele
Vince Razo

Video Conference Attendees:

Lisa Ann Kahaleauki
Charleen Naomi Crozier
John Tomoso
Nena Hart
Leonani Pahukoa Meyer

Excused:

Eyke Brath Hurdman

Present Staff

In-person Attendees:

Lori Tshako, Director of Housing & Human Concerns
Mariana Lowy-Gerstmar, Deputy Corporation Counsel (DCC)

Video Conference Attendees:

Saumalu Mata'afa, Deputy Director of Housing & Human Concerns
Christopher Kish, Homeless Program Coordinator

1. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL ITEMS

In-person Testimony

John Q Catholic on item #2A.i: Testifier is not really named John Q Catholic but he stated that he represents the Roman Catholic Church in Kula. He questioned the procedures for testimony and was worried that the Commission and audience couldn't hear him. He mentioned that from time to time, he would ask the church for support such as a drink of water, use their Wi-Fi, or volunteer to recycle cans, etc. He also mentioned that St Johns Church holds a community dinner once a month. Thus, he would like the Commission to urge other churches in his community to provide the same service but on different days throughout the month.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Organizing Churches/Faith Communities around Homeless Services and Outreach (Commissioner Tomoso) – Tomoso mentioned that he’s been speaking with other clergy members from other churches and faith-based groups regarding efforts to alleviate/mitigate homelessness, houselessness and people living on the streets. Tomoso also mentioned that in the past, Councilmembers Tasha Kama and Council Chair Alice Lee organized meetings with clergy members to address the above situations. Also, Faith Action For Community Equity (FACE) used to hold meetings in previous years to address such matters. Unfortunately, such meetings have stopped. Commissioner Tomoso’s concern is that we need to get these various churches and clergy groups together to talk story and work together to become a part of the Healing Solution. These church organizations may be a missing piece, along with first responders, police department and mental health providers.

Discussion on item 2A:

Chair Lindo: Mentioned that she and Commissioner Tomoso have been working to get more faith-based organizations involved with the Commission and that MPD and County of Maui Managing Director’s office have committed to attending/presenting at these Commission meetings in the future.

Commissioner Darcy: Asked Commissioner Tomoso if he has recollection on any suggestions that were brought up in the past that he would like to see move forward?

Commissioner Tomoso: Provided two points that the faith organizations emphasized in the past. These points are: 1) Individuals who are unsheltered/homeless are very much part of our community and 2) Individuals who are unsheltered/homeless have the right to determine their community, make decisions in the community.

Commissioner Darcy: Followed up by asking Commissioner Tomoso if it would be a good idea for CHSH to recommend/provide mediation for families to assist with reuniting them.

Commissioner Tomoso: Commented that he does not necessarily recommend for CHSH to provide the mediators as there are organizations such as Maui Homeless Alliance that are funded to provide such service. Instead, he is wanting to see more interaction and engagement with the various homeless serving groups, especially those faith-based.

Chair Lindo: Asked if there were any restrictions in place that prevent special meetings with faith-based community?

Deputy Corporation Counsel: Answered that the Commissioners would have to meet with the church organizations as private citizens and not representing CHSH. They would also have to make sure that no more than quorum would be at the meeting at any time.

Commissioner Darcy: Commented a TIG, Temporary Investigative Group. No other discussion.

In-person Testimony

Jason Schwartz on item #2A: Testifier thanks Commissioner Tomoso for addressing this topic and for bringing up his recommendations. He also mentioned that mediators are too busy and overwhelmed.

Commissioner Darcy: asked testifier what he thinks are the top 3 priorities that faith-based organizations can do?

Testifier Schwartz: Answered 1) provide temporary facilities and 2) more integration of homeless and churches.

Jessica Lau on item #2A: Based on her experience, some people lost hope and trust. She believes that some people need mediators. She wishes that churches can help with providing mail drops, restrooms, place to sleep/rest, and to throw garbage. It's hard when trash bins and public restrooms are locked.

Commissioner Darcy: Asked testifier what she thinks are the top 3 priorities that faith-based organizations can do?

Testifier Lau: Answered 1) safe parking for individuals, including those who are not employed 2) place to shower and 3) place to throw trash.

Randy Mae Kaauai on item #2A: Testifier is asking for more help and better places for houseless/homeless people to get help.

Commissioner Darcy: Asked the testifier what she thinks the Commission can help church-based organizations do?

Testifier Kaauai: Answered 1) for CHSH to partner with churches to help get her housed 2) get her a safe place to sleep and 3) help with phone calls and get her organized.

Laura Riedell on item #2A: Testifier commented that grant-funded organizations should be the first to reach out. She also expressed that the following would be very helpful in supporting homeless individuals: 1) safe parking to sleep and 2) access to electronics such as charging stations, computers, so that they can apply for benefits, driver's license, HUD and other resources. She mentioned that Native Americans get grants in California which allows them to fix cars and buy hiking supplies. This would be helpful here on Maui and suggested maybe churches or grant-funded organizations can provides such stipends. She is also suggesting that organizations/churches help with storing food.

Commissioner Darcy: Mentioned that a lot of individuals use substances to self-medicate. Thus, she asked the testifier if she thinks that it would be beneficial for churches to provide more education on substance abuse and addiction.

Testifier Riedell: Answered that it would help if individuals had a consistent person to do outreach with.

Commissioner Tempo: Asked Testifier Riedell to clarify what she meant about outreach.

Testifier Riedell: Responded that she wants to deal with the same person from the same agency, not multiple individuals. For example, she is currently dealing with DMV for car registration and Housing for HUD voucher.

Deputy Corporation Counsel: Reminded commission members that the role of the body is to make recommendations to the Council and Administration.

Discussion on item 2A:

Commissioner Hart: Suggested that a “Congregational Nursing” program could address all the needs identified by testifiers. This would help with showers, hygiene, help with appointments, transportation, etc.

Commissioner Tomoso: Highly recommends getting more engaged with churches and faith communities, even if it means a TIG. He also mentioned that the DHHC Homeless Division could play a role in this.

Commissioner Razo: Suggested that maybe congregational pastors can “hanai” or adopt a homeless person. They would help provide guidance to the individual(s) and commit to provide food for them on a scheduled basis.

Chair Lindo: Suggested that in order for the Commission to connect with faith-based communities to see what resources they have to offer, CHSH should form a TIG. She made a motion to create a TIG that will start on July 1, 2023 and no longer than October 31, 2023.

Commissioner Tomoso: Brought up a discussion to request that DHHC Homeless Division participate in the TIG.

Corporate Counsel: Clarified that the Homeless Division will not participate in the TIG but the TIG can make a recommendation to the department once the Commission decides what they want to do as a whole.

Motion: Chair Lindo made a motion to form a TIG for the purpose of engaging with faith-based communities on resources and programs for the unsheltered and homeless

that can be provided by the churches and faith-based communities. Seconded by Commissioner Tomoso. Voting unanimous, motion approved.

Motion: Chair Lindo made another motion that the TIG would consist of five members to include herself and Commissioners Tomoso, Razo, Kahele and Tempo. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Tempo. Voting unanimous, motion approved.

Commissioner Tomoso: Wanted to clarify the process of this TIG.

Chair Lindo: Clarified that she will contact TIG members and start the dialogue.

- B. Presentation: Homelessness and the Unsheltered, Collecting accurate and district specific data- (Commissioner Lindo)

<https://mauicounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/141420/CHSH-Presentation-Homelessness-and-the-Unsheltered-Collecting-Accurate-and-District-Specific-Data>

Chair Lindo presented a PowerPoint presentation that she put together to propose “Collecting Accurate & District Specific Data”. The presentation can be found on the link above.

Discussion on item 2B:

Commissioner Darcy: Asked if this proposed project would be in addition to the Point in Time Count (PIT) and would the “counters” be using Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)?

Chair Lindo: responded that yes, this would be in addition to PIT, but no to using HMIS. She does not care about national data but is more concerned about information collected in local communities.

Commissioner Tomoso: Agrees that the data for this project can be obtained with the help of faith-based communities and that this could be useful, especially for finding healing solutions.

Commissioner Kahaleauki: Asked Chair Lindo where is the data to prove that homelessness has risen significantly and also where would the funding come from. She questioned if County Council would use their budget to hire individuals to do the data collection.

Chair Lindo: Responded that her statement was expressed strictly from her own position based on her own observation. As far as funding for this proposal, Lindo responded that if the districts’ councilmembers wanted to make this one of their priorities, then maybe they would like to fit it in their budget. However, she created this with no intention to make this Department of Housing & Human Concern’s responsibility, nor have it affect

any other agencies or organizations. She is thinking that this group would have a “grass-roots” type of startup, that maybe churches or other faith-based organizations would like to donate to.

Commissioner Darcy: Commented that she is very interested in having more dialogue on this proposed project.

In-person Testimony

Jason Schwartz on item #2B: Commended Chair Lindo’s efforts and offers his assistance, especially with media.

Jessica Lau on item #2B: Agreed that this is the best way to collect data and is willing to volunteer to assist with data collection.

Laura Riedell on item #2B: Also agreed that it is important to get the appropriate and accurate numbers. She stressed that the individuals in homeless/houseless community know the real numbers, they are the ones who see and recognize if there are new members or any who left. Thus, it would be helpful to include them.

Chair Lindo: Reminded the Commissioners that her proposal comes from personal passion and is not intended to criticize any agencies or department. No other action taken.

3. DHHC Updates and Communication

Christopher Kish, Homeless Program Coordinator presented updates to the Commission. These included:

- 1) Malama I Ke Ola asked to immediately terminate the current grant agreement, which provided medical care to unsheltered individuals.
- 2) ECONorthwest recently started a contract with County of Maui in hopes to end homelessness in the community. They are scheduled to join CHSH July meeting to speak about their plan.
- 3) Talks about possibly expanding the Kauhale initiative to Maui. If details become available to DHHC, the Commission will be informed.

Commissioner Darcy: Asked what the reason for Malama’s sudden termination.

Mr. Kish: Responded that it was a lack of capacity issue/staffing issue with the medical team.

Commissioner Tempo: Asked if the termination was effective immediately or after a certain date.

Mr. Kish: Responded that it was effective immediately as a decision made by the agency.

Chair Lindo: Asked if there is a Request for Proposal (RFP) out to obtain the funds that were initially granted to Malama I Ke Ola, or wanted clarification on what the next step would be as a result of this termination.

Director Tsuhako: Responded that there is not an RFP out for this but the department is looking for an alternative medical provider who is certified to provide the services.

Chair Lindo: She recently met with County of Maui's Managing Director (MD) to ask if the CHSH could be included in any discussion involving Kauhale. She also stated MD will make efforts to involve CHSH in future discussions will try to join CHSH meeting in future. Governor's use of the term "Kauhale" is different than the CHSH context.

Commissioner Tomoso: Also suggested that CHSH invites Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to future meetings.

Commissioner Darcy: Expressed that she is devastated to hear and is hoping that a solution can be remedied to help all those affected.

4. Community Concerns –

Jason Schwartz: He would like to see more mental health integrated in the healing solution of homelessness.

Jessica Lau: Brought up multiple questions 1) What happened to the pallets that were previously purchased 2) What happened to the Safe Place parking 3) Why can't Maui have tiny villages like on Oahu 4) Who chose the people for Huliau 5) Why start the projects and not finish it. She would like to see these projects move forward or at least have her questions answered.

Jaycee Law: As a "settler", he is sad to hear someone from Molokai call their own people "homeless". He also pointed out that on the July 23, 2023 County Council Agenda, he noticed an item which title included "...Department of Housing and Urban Development Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grant." He wanted to make a recommendation if at all possible, to include the word "houseless".

Randy Mae Kaauai: Mentioned that she will be moving to Molokai soon and will be needing help with housing. She let them know that she would be open to having churches or faith-based organizations help her look for housing.

Laura Riedell: She documented a sweep at Kanaha earlier that morning, which was traumatizing to her. She has lots of questions: Where do they go, Where are the pallets, buses, the outreach workers, Why can't they get trash pick up there. She's also worried about sun exposure. Commissioner Darcy asked how would it be different if they had

trash assistance. Ms. Riedell responded that the trash would be gone and the stigma would be reduced. She would also ask for more water delivery and shower services.

4. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lindo adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

Link to recording:

<https://bluejeans.com/playback/s/7Ez6sRMURHwxOoECSehUhlcBUa5PbAlj8rmnH6e3HILUD2cvHemEjnhDCSBwKLVS>

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