

COMMISSION ON HEALING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS (CHSH)  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
ON-LINE VIA BLUEJEANS  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lindo at 1:38 p.m. A quorum was present as noted below:

Present Commissioners

*Video Conference Attendees:*

Zhantell Lindo, Chair  
Rochelle Kim Tempo, Vice Chair  
John Tomoso  
Lisa Darcy  
Jewelyn Kahele  
Eyke Brath Hurdman  
Vince Razo

Excused Commissioners

Lisa-Ann Kahaleauki  
Leonani Pahukoa Meyer

Vacancies by recently resigned Commissioners

resigned Charleen "Naomi" Crozier  
Nena Hart

Present Staff

*Video Conference Attendees:*

Rae-Ann Pagatpatan, Staff Secretary  
Christopher Kish, Homeless Program Coordinator  
Selina Pannell, Deputy Corporation Counsel (DCC)

Guest Presenters

*Video Conference Attendees:*

*C-MOMS*

Leah Smith, C-MOMS  
Thersia Phillips, C-MOMS  
James Koshiba, State of Hawaii Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

1. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL ITEMS  
None
2. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation by Maui Chaplains Ministry of Maui (C-MOM) – Introduction to the organization and services they provide in regard to homelessness and the unsheltered in Maui County

C-MOM's CEO Chaplain Leah Smith and COO Chaplain Thersia Phillips introduced their agency to the Commission. C-MOM is a Community Integration Service (CIS) program through the State of Hawaii where they serve as housing navigators. They have contracts with various Medicaid providers, where they are able to help people with mental health, substance abuse and/or physical illnesses, find housing. They also work with Habitat for Humanity on getting furniture for the residents. C-MOM works directly with private owners to get affordable rental rates for those in need. In the transitional periods, they help individuals assist with various paperwork, and connect them with various agencies/resources.

Their office is located at 1942 Main St #106A, Wailuku, HI 96793.

Contact information is as follows:

Email: office@cmomaui.com

Local Phone: 808.897.0527

Business Line: 813.699.9138

Fax: 877.770.2109

Discussion on item 2A:

**Commissioner Tomoso:** asked C-MOM if they would work with faith communities.

**Chaplain Smith:** responded "Yes". They often work closely with other chaplains, who are also pastors and ministers who have opened up their own personal lands to place pallet homes on and house individuals needing shelter.

**Commissioner Tomoso:** was amazed by C-MOM's response since he has learned they assist with shelter in both private residences as well as pallet homes on private lands. He then asked if C-MOM was a member of the Maui Homeless Alliance and if they already connected with a liaison of the County of Maui.

**Chaplain Smith and Chaplain Phillips:** responded that yes, C-MOM is a member of Maui Homeless Alliance but no they are not connected with a liaison from the county.

**Commissioner Tomoso:** suggested they connect with someone from Department of Housing and Human Concerns Homeless Program Division, which this Commission provides with advice.

**Commissioner Eyke Brath Hurdman:** asked how are C-MOM participants referred to them?

**Chaplain Smith:** responded that most members are referred through their Medicaid providers. Sometimes they are referred by other external agencies or even through walk-up services. Community members can visit their office and sign themselves up.

**Vice-Chair Tempo:** asked where their office was located.

**Chaplain Phillips:** stated that their office located is at 1942 Main St #106A, Wailuku, HI 96793.

**Chair Lindo:** asked a few questions. 1) How long have Chaplain Smith and Chaplain Phillips been working with clients, 2) how many people have they serviced since then and, 3) what percentage have they placed in housing?

**Chaplain Smith and Chaplain Phillips:** responded that they have been working with clients since 2019. They started off as Mental Health Case Managers with Bayada and Aloha House. Then in 2021, they started the agency, servicing over 140 individuals in the past two years. They currently have 60 active clients. Placement rate has been around 40%.

**Chair Lindo:** Asked what are some of the major challenges that C-MOM faces and if the County of Maui was to support their agency, would their organization have the capacity to handle vouchers and/or rental assistance funding in order to expedite the process of placing individuals in these homes?

**Chaplain Smith and Chaplain Phillips:** responded that yes, they would.

**Commissioner Tomoso:** asked if C-MOMs provided mobile service or do individuals have to visit them strictly at their location.

**Chaplain Smith:** mentioned that all their case managers can be mobile and meet their clients if necessary.

**Chair Lindo:** asked how long C-MOMs contract is valid for with the State of Hawaii and how certain are they to continue their services.

**Chaplain Smith and Chaplain Phillips:** mentioned that they recently renewed their contract. At first, it was only for one year but since it's a pilot program, it's at least good for two years. They are hoping to get longer contracts for about five or ten years.

**Chair Lindo:** asked if C-MOM would actually benefit if the county would assist with funding and allow them to expand their services on Maui?

**Chaplain Smith:** responded definitely. She stated an example of how she's working with private land owners willing to donate land, construct small dwellings/communities, and help however they can to assist with housing shortage.

- B. Presentation by Mr. James Koshiba, State of Hawaii's Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness – Introduction about Homeless Resources and Tools
  - i. Kauhale initiative and funding
  - ii. Homeless Emergency Proclamation vs. Housing Proclamation

Mr. Koshiba first introduced himself and spoke a little about his background working with the homeless and unsheltered communities. He then presented a PowerPoint titled, *Homeless Strategy Overview*.

Mr. Koshiba first wanted to point out three myths that may misdirect the public and elaborated why these were just myths.

- 1) More services alone will solve this.
- 2) Our people are “service resistant”
- 3) Housing without community will serve this.

Mr. Koshiba then highlighted the five priorities that he presented to Governor Josh Green, in regards to tackling Hawaii’s homelessness issues.

- 1) Deeply Affordable Space – Conventional Space
- 2) Deeply Affordable Space – Kauhale
- 3) Space for Mental Health & Substance Use Healing
- 4) Clear Obstacles in the Continuum of Care
- 5) Flip NIMBY to YIMBY to Support all of the Above

The first three priorities focus on creating more space. The fourth priority would be to resource the current system more effectively. The State Homeless program budget has not increased in the last 10 years. The last priority is to be able to change the local communities' minds in support of affordable housing programs, group home projects or treatment facilities in their neighborhoods and regions so that we can minimize homelessness.

Mr. Koshiba then further discussed the “Kauhale” concept. Most people think of this term as tiny home villages with shared living spaces. However, he explained that Kauhale does not necessarily have to be designed that way. He presented alternative models such as repurposing a vacant office space, hotel, or apartment complex. Kauhale living would foster *kuleana* or a sense of belonging and responsibility for the residents. Not only would they live there but they would also be responsible for maintaining the property. Community members would take on roles to provide security, groundskeeping and even building maintenance. Overhead and operational costs would be reduced allowing rent to be kept minimal. Mr. Koshiba mentioned ongoing efforts to look for community partners that can relate to the homeless community and have the heart to for them. He’s also looking for church or faith-based organizations to help. Mr. Koshiba has gotten offers on from private landowners willing to donate properties for these villages but he needs assistance to help with operations.

Mr. Koshiba ended his segment by explaining the difference between the Emergency Proclamation on Homelessness versus the Emergency Proclamation on Housing. The Emergency Proclamation on Homelessness was created in January and only applies to projects exclusively serving the homeless/unsheltered. This proclamation does not cover any projects used for affordable housing nor mixed housing units. The Emergency Proclamation on Homelessness also expedites state procedures such as historical and cultural review, environmental review and health and safety review. It does not make exemptions, but it expedites the process on the state level.

Discussion on item 2B:

**Commissioner Tomoso on item #2B:** Expressed his interested on having the “Kauhale” concept here on Maui. He suggested projects here on Maui to utilize government land.

**Mr. Koshiba:** urged the Commissioners to let him know if they know of any church property or faith-based land that could be used. He also mentioned that although there is government land, which he's been trying to work with, but due to bureaucratic procedures, planning and permits take longer. It's typically faster to work with private sectors.

**Commissioner Darcy on item #2B:** asked Mr. Koshiba if he has any suggestions on how to bring the different organizations and agencies together so that they can be on the same page. She pointed out silos and how the various agencies are just doing their own thing. It may be more effective if they come together.

**Mr. Koshiba:** agreed with Commissioner Darcy's point. Unfortunately, there's a lot of silos everywhere, not just on Maui. If he can be of any help to get the various agencies together to have a discussion, he can try to put something together if that's what the Commission wants.

**Chair Lindo:** asked Mr. Koshiba if he finds any of the counties' policies either hindering or restrictive in regards to providing housing to the unsheltered, and if so, how can this commission assist with making recommendations to County of Maui officials?

**Mr. Koshiba:** mentioned that he has met with the various county agencies such as the Corporation Counsel and Permits department to speak about each county's current procedures. State procedures differ from each county so he's urged each county's agency to review their processes and adopt ways that help expedite housing the unhoused. Therefore, if this Commission would like to urge their administration to prioritize this matter, that would be one suggestion. Another suggestion that he made is to urge planning and permitting departments to create codes and/or modify current ones to ensure these projects are built to be safe. These codes should be fire, hurricane, and flood-safe, but should also allow for expedited construction. Another main point is to have these requirements be in favor of keeping costs down as long as all safety requirements are met.

**Chair Lindo:** then asked if Mr. Koshiba had a template to share with the Commission.

**Mr. Koshiba:** already shared a template with Maui County Officials in regards to site planning. This model was created by Hawaii County in response to the Big Island's recent volcanic eruption emergency. The Big Island community was able to build a tiny home village through various non-profit organizations and agencies. Then Hawaii County officials ensured standards were put in place to ensure safety. For example, codes ensured roads were built wide enough for emergency response vehicles, as well as homes built far enough to avoid fire from spreading. He mentioned that Mr. Darrel Oliveira who was in charge of the Hawaii County Emergency Management Agency at the time called the various county departments together to come up with those standards. Per Chair Lindo's request, he will share the site planning template with the Commission. Mr. Koshiba also mentioned that second template. An agency will be launching a website that will list the various prefabricated homes vendors who contacted the State of Hawaii in response to the recent wildfires. The agency will compile a list of 60+ vendors who offered to provide their products and analyze the details of each. They review and rate criteria such as the products' costs, durability, ease of assembly, warranty policies, and so forth. Therefore, if an organization wants information on a reputable product, this website will have all the information in one location.

**Chair Lindo's:** next questions to Mr. Koshiba were about the Homelessness Conference happening on Oahu on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Is he going to be there and is the conference open to the public, such as the Commissioners.

**Mr. Koshiba:** He mentioned that this annual homelessness awareness is organized by the two continuum of care groups: Partners in Care on Oahu and Bridging the Gap on neighbor islands. It's open to the public but for a fee. However, the organizers are hoping to attract those with lived experiences, so if they're individuals with lived experiences but can't afford to attend the conference, the organizers are giving out fee waivers and help with registration fees. Mr. Koshiba and his team will be there.

**Commissioner Tomoso:** asked Mr. Koshiba if Maui County has already either adopted Hawaii County's *Kauhale* template or created its own, and if so, is Maui County's one already being shared.

**Mr. Koshiba:** responded that his understanding is that Maui does not have one completed but is working on completing one, utilizing Hawaii County's one as guidance.

**Chair Lindo:** also asked Mr. Koshiba if *Kauhale* Initiative projects or those under the Emergency Proclamation can utilize funds from these grants in conjunction with funding from other sources.

**Mr. Koshiba:** responded that yes, absolutely. The more funding a project can get, whether it's in-kind donations or material, or additional leverage from other resources, the better. On the state's website, one can find "draft project prioritization criteria". He's hoping to get feedback on this from the community as they draft a final copy.

**Chair Lindo's:** last question was in regards to the longevity of projects being built under the Emergency Proclamation.

**Mr. Koshiba:** responded that once these projects begin, they are covered by the Emergency Proclamation for the life of the agreement. For instance, if a project's contract is for 20 years but the EP no longer exists, the exceptions would still apply as long as the contract has not expired.

**Chair Lindo:** thanked Mr. Koshiba for presenting his material today. She also reminded the Commissioners that if they would like to invite agencies to present at these commission meetings, they sure can. She urges them to do so, so that they as private citizens can get the resources that they need to help the community. She also mentioned that this will allow the Commission to become a better partner with the County.

### 3. DHHC Updates and Communication

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

- 1) A report that due to the recent wildfires ECONorthwest has postponed their visit to Maui and their study for now. They were supposed to arrive back on the island on August 9 but will reschedule for a later date.
- 2) The military-grade field shelter is located between Hana Highway and Mayor Carvalho Highway. The State Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for the construction of this site and Project Vision will be in charge of operating it. The county

of Maui does not have any involvement with the planning and operations of this site. The County is trying to obtain a copy of the contract between the State and Project Vision to better understand eligibility, intake/case management, and other processes.

- 3) DHHHC is working with HUD to execute our grant agreement for the Special NOFO funds we requested last year. Because DHHHC was unable to execute a sub-grantee agreement with our proposed medical outreach provider, DHHHC had to request a change of scope. Outreach can still continue and changes will be made once a provider is secured.
- 4) The DHHHC Director and Deputy Director have been required to lead the Human Services Branch at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). For the first six weeks, a representative of the department had to be present for the 24/7 operations. Schedule has since transitioned to 6 days/work, 9-12 hour/days.

#### On-Line Testimony

**Michael Williams on #3:** asked what type of permit is being used to build Family Life Center's Ohana Hope Village near King's Cathedral and the tent village near the airport. How did these two emergency camps get constructed so quickly?

**Mr. Kish responded:** That the housing created by Family Life Center is being done on private land with private funds so the County has no say on that. However, they have been keeping the County updated on their plans and progress. As tent city project, it was done under the Governor's direction.

#### Discussion on item 3:

**Commissioner Tomoso:** asked for clarification on what role former Commissioner Naomi Crozier now holds within the County of Maui. He was under the impression that Ms. Crozier was the Homeless Program Coordinator, but it's actually Mr. Kish.

**Mr. Kish:** clarified that Ms. Crozier was hired by the Mayor's office to primarily be a liaison advisory role in regard to the County Homelessness issue. Her position is not under the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Mr. Kish was temporarily assigned to the DHHHC Homeless Program Coordinator role when his predecessor left the department. Mr. Kish was then assigned the permanent assignment in July.

**Commissioner Tomoso:** Thanked Mr. Kish on the clarification of roles. Then he asked if Mr. Kish will be attending the CHSH meetings regularly to provide the updates for the Homeless Program division.

**Mr. Kish:** clarified Director Tsuhako or someone from the DHHHC will provide the updates at each meeting.

**Commissioner Darcy:** commented that she's ready to participate with ECONorthwest when they are ready to launch their working group sessions with the community.

**Chair Lindo:** Would there be a problem with ECONorthwest's contract lapsing if they postpone their study?

**Mr. Kish:** mentioned that prior to the wildfire emergency, DHHC recently requested a contract extension. An 18-month extension was already approved since there was already a delay in executing the original contract. In the next few months, DHHC will work with ECONorthwest on assessing Maui County's needs since a lot has changed since the wildfires.

**Chair Lindo:** wanted to offer the Commission's help with getting ECONorthwest's study going when all parties are ready. They will also be happy to make a recommendation to secure funding to County Council if needed. She also wanted to clarify if she understood the developmental procedures from County and State. Her understanding is that although there may be various homeless projects in the works, not all of them will need to go through the County of Maui's Homeless Program division if it's not on County Land. For instance, if a project is on private property, it may go through the state in regard to the Emergency Proclamation, and it may go through the various county offices for planning and permitting. However, it does not necessarily have to go through the DHHC Homeless division for any approval.

**Mr. Kish:** confirmed that Chair Lindo was correct. The only reason he was made aware of these two particular projects is because other agencies had brought it up in meetings he has recently attended.

**Chair Lindo:** In regards to NOFO grant, chair mentioned that she could suggest medical providers from outer islands who may be able to fulfill services for Maui.

**Commissioner Darcy:** wanted to clarify who owns the land for the tent-city project.

**Mr. Kish:** responded that the land with the military-grade tents belongs to the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation.

4. Community Concerns – None

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners requested to secure a venue for the upcoming meetings as they feel it's important to offer a physical location for these meetings. The staff secretary will work on resuming the hybrid format.

**Commissioner Tomoso:** brought up a suggestion to invite Ms. Naomi Crozier, former CHSH Commissioner, to the upcoming meetings. It would be nice to learn more about her new role at the Mayor's office and for her to represent their office. He also suggested that if possible, she could give updates on what the Mayor's office is doing in regards to homeless affairs throughout the community. He then made a motion to invite the Mayor's office to the next meeting and place them on the agenda.

**Vice Chair Tempo:** seconded the motion.

**Discussion by Commissioner Darcy:** who wanted to express her thoughts on making sure that these Commission meetings are accessible to community members who want to participate, whether via virtual capabilities or in-person. She also mentioned that it's important to keep these



meetings engaging and covering items they feel necessary. If the Commission decides to invite multiple County Agencies to do separate monthly updates each month, it will take away time from being able to cover actual agenda items.

**Chair Lindo:** agreed with Commissioner Darcy, as she too would like to focus more on agenda topics. She wanted to clarify that the suggestion was more about inviting Mayor's office to these meetings to listen in and be available to answer questions only as it pertains to relevant topics, not necessarily every month.

**Chair Lindo:** clarified that the motion on the floor, which was also seconded, was to invite the Mayor's liaison for homelessness to be present at the monthly CHSH meetings and to engage as necessary. Vote was taken, but was interrupted as Commissioner Darcy needed further clarification on what the motion entailed. Chair Lindo clarified once more that the motion was to provide a letter to the Mayor, urging him to send a representative to the CHSH meetings each month if possible and have that person engage if necessary.

**Commissioner Darcy:** asked once more if this person will be required to do an update each meeting or is this just an invite for them to attend.

**Chair Lindo:** responded that the letter would just be an invitation to attend and to engage as necessary in order to get first-hand information from the Mayor's office when needed. Vote was taken again and voting was unanimous. Motion approved.

#### 6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lindo adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

Link to recording:

<https://bluejeans.com/s/yeHizT5YsmF>