

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Date: April 30, 2020
Time: 10:00am - 11:00am
Location: Via Zoom

Committee Members in Attendance

- Jaycob Bytel, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
- Emily Halcon, Homeless Services Manager, Office of the Mayor
- Chad Augustin, Deputy Fire Chief, Sacramento Fire Department
- Leyne Milstein, Assistant City Manager, Office of the City Manager
- Sergeant William Wann, Impact Team, Sacramento Police Department
- Chris Conlin, Assistant City Manager, Office of the City Manager

Support Team in Attendance

- Lisa Chan-Sawin, Project Lead, Transform Health
- Ron Spingarn, Project Director, Transform Health
- Gretchen Schroeder, Deputy Director, Transform Health
- Alexis Sabor, Project Coordinator, Transform Health

Committee Business

1. Action Item: Approve 11/7/19 and 1/9/20 Meeting Minutes
 - Emily Halcon moved to approve the minutes from 11/7/20 and 1/9/20, Chad Augustin seconded the motion, all approved.

Program Updates (please refer to meeting slides)

1. Info Item: Dashboard
 - Lisa: Data is up to April 15th. Enrollment is at 906. Seeing very similar trends from referrals and health plan assignment from past months. We continue to house more and more folks – we have 692 housed right now.
 - Emily: I would love more information on who is in and what constitutes as transitional housing because I think there may be more permanent numbers that we see here.
 - Lisa: We can ask Sacramento Covered (SC) for a more in depth break down. Any questions?
2. Info Item: Pathways COVID-19 Impacts
 - Lisa: Everyone here is deeply immersed in the City COVID-19 response, but we have Pathways specific updates. We paused enrollment for two weeks in order to get our service partners some time to readjust. We called all partners and found that there was a need to coordinate with staff to determine who is at risk and needs to be remote. Our Hub partners transitioned quickly and nimbly. Housing partners had more trouble in the beginning. We are readjusted now. Only SC remains field based which slowed services a bit, but we are also seeing that pick back

up. The Support Team reviewed program policies as a means to provide our partners with more flexibility, such as allowing remote visits. We are also tracking all federal and state policy changes that could impact our program. We will get into more detail on that later. Finally, the City did a small round of PPE distribution for housing providers. I am pleased that Pathways continues to be functional. This is not the case for other pilots. Any questions?

- Emily: Our hospital partners are interested in integrating COVID-19 referrals with Pathways as a means to connect people to long term support. Overall, the process has been smoother than anticipated.

3. Info Item: Evaluation Update

- Emily: I will send out a summary to the group after this meeting. We are doing a local evaluation that is not ready for public distribution. It gave us a sense of where we are in terms of our program outcomes. The evaluators followed one Anthem cohort over 17 months. Big story – we are seeing that enrollees either had a reduction in ED utilization or maintained no ED utilization. This cohort already had lower ED visits and so the evaluators are sorting through the cohorts level of disconnection from health care services. We are getting more data from the other health plans in June. Very good news to share.
- Lisa: This was exciting to see because there were inactive users and high utilizers alike and it tells us we are preventing over-utilization of the ED.
- Emily: These were really sick people who were also disconnected and we were able to stabilize them. I will have Desert Vista conduct an in-depth presentation at the next meeting.

4. Info Item: Re-Housing Funds Update

- Emily: These are the one-time funds the City received from the Governor's budget. We got the money and allocated it to our housing partners starting in March. We are working through invoicing logistics. All three housing providers have cash on hand. I am working with the Support Team to provide TA. This was money used to move 50 people into emergency room and board placements as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. One of the things I recognize is the lack of bandwidth to provide TA on the City end, so the Support team will be expanding their scope to support this.
- Lisa: We also know landlords want to rent to us because of the stable income factor. It is great to see them engage with our program because that means more folks will be housed.

5. Info Item: May IGT Update

- Emily: We have no IGT gap in May! This is great!
- Gretchen: The State moved the deadline and we do not have a new date for the IGT. I am expecting end of May.
- Emily: The only issue here is we may receive these funds later as a result of the extension.

Discussion Items:

1. WPC Bonus Augmentation

- a. Jaycob: Before COVID, Secretary Ghaly called the Mayor and shared there were additional WPC funds that the City could draw down. We would need a local match that would involve a separate IGT.
- b. Emily: Unlike our usual WPC funds, these dollars would not be tied into services. It would be an incentive agreement the City earned. We will basically get paid to provide services that complement our WPC pilot. Funds will be used to supplement the program. Gretchen and Lisa helped us draft options for incentive triggers. We are talking through with the State tomorrow.

Only LA and Alameda pilots have done this before. We want to use benefit coordination (i.e. SNAP, WIC, Medicare), ICP+ expansion, new City shelters (for building, not filling), integration of social work in the Police Impact Team and the City paramedicine program (Sac MIH). Next step is getting this approved.

- c. Leyne: Be careful with Sac MIH. We only have an agreement for the pandemic specifically. This is not and will not be fully implemented at this time.
- d. Emily: I was not aware of this. The same goes for Metro?
- e. Leyne: They have two units in service: one is COVID only and the other is funded by hospitals. Both are temporary.
- f. Emily: Thank you for flagging this. We will remove Sac MIH as a trigger.
- g. Lisa: We should check in with DHCS on whether they are open to short term endeavors. They may like the COVID specific components.
- h. Emily: Thank you all. The next step is a call with DHCS tomorrow to figure out how to proceed.

2. DHCS Policy Updates

a. Cal AIM Implementation Delay + Possible WPC Extension

- i. Lisa: DHCS has postponed CalAIM due to COVID-19. Counties are leading local responses to the pandemic, so they are under water and can't support implementation efforts at this time. Same goes for safety net organizations. DHCS is seeking a one year extension of WPC to fill the gap brought on by postponing CalAIM. Transition planning with health plans is also on hold. No new dates have been released at this time. Plans all have various views on what should happen next. In general, the plans want to continue working on transition since there is now more time to do it thoughtfully. In addition, the State is pursuing more support outside the CMS blanket waiver. Two 11135 applications and one 1115a emergency waiver application have been submitted already. The 1115 waiver extension request is in process. Finally, there is an alternative 1115 waiver proposal that would extend WPC and add an additional \$300M in new funding for WPC pilots. This means we are working within three approaches. The first approach would be the DHCS Emergency 1115a which, would allow WPC Pilots to pay for temporary, emergency housing (including rehab facilities) and provide supplies and other emergency supports, like meals. It will also allow pilots to modify current budgets to pay for COVID-19 response but there will be no new money. The second approach is a Straight one-year extension of existing waiver programs, including WPC without new money. The third and final approach allows pilots to use WPC funds to pay for anything COVID-related, expands target population to any patient in the county (not just WPC enrollees) and provides an additional \$300M allocated to WPC pilots. They are willing to cover services and provide support to non-WPC populations. If the extension is granted, we would go through December 2021. Stakeholder hearings are in May.
- ii. Leyne: What are the timing implications?
- iii. Lisa: If we lift the emergency at end of July, the emergency waivers would be good for two months.
- iv. Leyne: If this happens, would we have to take and adjust our existing budget or increase the IGT?
- v. Lisa: Yes or provide additional local match. This would be highly dependent on the status of the public health emergency. You would probably claim for this in the October IGT and

again in May 2021. For the non-emergency funding, there are two possibilities. Health Homes impacts are unclear because it is not tied to a waiver. It lives under a separate mechanism. New money would mean we could expand our populations. This would be better for the City because more money. But there is a budget neutrality issue here that the state has to work through.

- vi. Emily: I wanted to get a reaction from the group because if option 2 happens, that means the City could choose to end the program as originally planned or continue for an additional year. I wanted to get a sense of where the City stands on this. I am worried about staffing costs since we will lose admin funding if we extend with no new money.
- vii. From the Mayor's perspective, this allows us to stay in the driver's seat for homeless service delivery. Because of this, I vote we extend the program.
- viii. Leyne: That's great, but we need to fund infrastructure. These are great ideas, but we cannot sustain staff time without more money. It's easy for me to say yes, but if Emily staff isn't paid for then we have to say no.
- ix. Jaycob: I think the Mayor would push to provide more support.
- x. Leyne: I understand that.
- xi. Emily: We have vacancy in my department and I would need to refill that position if an extension happened.
- xii. Leyne: That position would not be subject to vacancy sweep because there aren't dollars to fund the position. That position goes away when the funding goes away. If we get the money, we will fill that position.
- xiii. Lisa: The State will require us to readjust our budget in order to determine the budget room available and what can be used from what is remaining to build a new budget.
- xiv. Emily: We also need a local match again. Those commitments end next year so we would have to go back to our funding partners. This is why the evaluation outcomes are critical here. Lack of local match is a huge issue.
- xv. Leyne: Correct.
- xvi. Jaycob: The hospitals love WPC. I think they will want to keep this going.
- xvii. Lisa: There is also increasing interest from Health Plans as well. They see savings and value in our program. At this point, the state wants number 2 (extension w/o new money). There will be stakeholder meeting to weigh in on in at.
- xviii. Leyne: Should we expect to know more by June? Is easier to push this through without new dollars?
- xix. Lisa: Yes, I do think no new money will be easier. More money would be longer for sure. I will get the exact dates for you on the stakeholder process.
- xx. Emily: We may have to move on this before our committee meets again. I want to work with Jaycob and Lisa on next steps. We will also work with the City lobbyist and report back.
- xxi. Lisa: We will continue to track these changes so please reach out if you have questions. We will continue to elevate to Emily as we learn more. I think we can assume an extension is going to happen – we just don't know how.
- xxii. Leyne: Is \$300 million state money or federal?
- xxiii. Lisa: Split half and half.
- xxiv. Leyne: Who is driving the ask for more money?

- xxv. Lisa: LA was a key driver in saying they were strapped for cash because of COVID-19.
- xxvi. Leyne: Time for my obligatory we are not a county line. Our COVID-19 response is different. We may not need that extra money. FEMA is covering us.
- xxvii. Emily: Next steps are reviewing our budget, participating in stakeholder meetings and keeping posted.