

Humboldt Housing and Homelessness Coalition (HHHC) Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, April 3, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Aaron Zell (DHHS), Darlene Spoor (Arcata House Partnership), Dian Pecora (South County Homes for All), Leah Lamattina (HCOE), Saul Lopez (Nation's Finest), Jeff Davis (City of Eureka), Alex Stillman (City of Arcata), Cheryl Churchill (Eureka Housing Authority), Thomas Steenblock (Open Door), Andrea Rodrigo (Redwoods Rural Health Center), Robert Ward (DHHS).

Agenda:

Mini Presentations from Community Organizations and Service Providers:

- **Housing Authority:** Not defunded, about 1,140 vouchers remain in use. The Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program is ending and will not operate past Q1 2027, leaving 80 households without rental assistance. The authority has secured funding to redevelop 44 units and rehabilitate 90 more.
- **Arcata House Partnership:** Operates the Annex Navigation Center, providing Coordinated Entry Services and resources including showers, meals, mail, document support, Domestic Violence guidance, and CalFresh gleaning (ending June). Runs rapid rehousing (RRH) and permanent supportive housing (PSH). Manages two Homekey sites: Ke-mey-ek' Place in Eureka (with the Yurok Tribe) and The Grove in Arcata; some units have sustained damage. Also operates a family shelter and an extreme weather shelter with the City of Arcata, and hosts holiday meals, memorials, and social programs.
- **City of Eureka:** Working on four housing construction projects and infrastructure upgrades to UPLIFT Eureka's resource center, with plans to expand to a second location. Actively leveraging CalAIM Community Supports and Enhanced Care Management funding, and can assist other programs in doing the same.
- **Redwoods Rural:** SoHum Community Supports is performing well, with 6 of 7 Full Time Equivalent Enhanced Care Management (ECM) case managers filled. Redwoods Rural is the only organization serving unsheltered homelessness in the region, providing food access, outdoor supplies, and conducting the Point-in-Time (PIT) count. They were among the few to receive renewed CalFresh funding and will expand fresh food access with new refrigeration. Andrea previously worked at Pathways, which delivered intensive behavioral health services to prevent homelessness, and can provide outcome data demonstrating its effectiveness.
- **Nation's Finest:** Provides services to veterans; current bunk-bed model has proven ineffective for shared occupancy. Leasing office space and converting two rooms into lower-bunk living areas. Seeking funding to offset loss of CalFresh grant, which supported a nutritionist, food, supplies, and outreach. Shifting toward integrated services with cross-trained staff rather than siloed grant programs.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:59 a.m. Next Executive Meeting: April 22, 2026 over Zoom.

- **Humboldt County Office of Education:** HCOE supports school districts as subject-matter experts on housing and homeless youth. Under federal definitions, homelessness includes doubled- or tripled-up households. HCOE conducts a student PIT count and is working toward year-round data. Homeless liaisons may be dedicated roles or added duties within districts. Services include professional development, family case conferencing, case management, and emergency response. The program uses braided funding and recently began ECM services, with the goal of supporting an emergency housing voucher program for families. They also lost a CalFresh grant.
- **Open Door:** Operates a mobile medical van serving Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Employs 14 case managers focused on ECM and Community Supports, with plans to expand service tiers, including Medication-Assisted Treatment programs.

CoC 101 Training and Review of Bylaws Conversation:

- Robert is willing to meet with any Executive Committee (EC) members to discuss the CoC bylaws in further detail.
- One of the two co-chairs has to be a local government representative.
- The Lived Experience Working Group was discussed, with members noting they had put significant effort into launching it but had not received any updates or communication about its status. The original plan, to hire someone with lived experience to serve on the EC and facilitate the workgroup, fell through due to the county-wide hiring freeze. Some EC members expressed frustration that decisions about pausing or not moving forward with the workgroup seemed to have been made without their input or clear communication. The group agreed to revisit the status of the workgroup and discuss re-engagement at a future EC meeting.

HHAP Discussion and Vote:

- In order to be eligible for HHAP-6 funding, the HHHC is required to amend the MOU between the HHHC and County. The CoC is not a legal entity and cannot be sued.

Motion #1: (Zell/Lopez) Motion to ratify the HHAP-6 MOU

- 1 abstained, all in favor. Motion passes.

YAB Discussion:

- The group agreed to reconnect with Rosemary upon her return from leave, as additional coaching and support for YAB members is needed. They also discussed the need for a more structured onboarding and training process. Engaging youth in the CoC was affirmed as a shared responsibility among EC members, youth participants, and youth organizers.

Topics for Future EC Meetings:

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1. Invite County CalFresh representatives to an EC meeting to share updates, identify gaps from funding losses, and discuss potential solutions.
2. Add a standing agenda item for program/project updates and service gap identification.
3. Invite North Coast Health Improvement & Information Network (NCHIIN) to present on using the Community Information Exchange (CIE) to improve provider communication. Discuss funding use of CIE as a partner network (across the EC).
4. Hold a focused discussion on re-engaging the Lived Experience Working Group.
5. Discuss how the EC can better support and incentivize youth participation in the CoC.
6. Explore the feasibility of monthly in-person HHHC EC meetings and reassess the current meeting cadence.
7. Facilitate a candid discussion on EC priorities in a constrained funding environment, acknowledging the need for difficult trade-offs.
8. Discuss what data and methodology are needed to estimate the average cost of housing a person experiencing homelessness versus the cost of leaving them unhoused, to inform funding decisions and public communication.