



# PARTNERS IN CARE

## Oahu Continuum of Care

*Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.*

### PIC Advisory Board Minutes Thursday, January 6, 2022

Attendees via Zoom: Laura Thielen, Nicky Winter, Cheryl Bellisario, Bob Wardlaw, Claire Fujita, Greg Payton, Emma Grochowsky, Heather Lusk, Jillian Okamoto, Jason Kasamoto, Sam Church, Scott Morishige, Marya Grambs, Darrell Young, Aura Reyes

Topic	Discussion	Outcome/Action
<b>Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order at 10:00 am	Meeting starts
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	November meeting minutes – Marya Grambs motions, Claire Fujita seconds. None oppose, none abstain.	November minutes approved
<b>Presentations on COVID</b>	<p><b>Dept of Health, CARES (Leocadia)</b> – CARES Line is getting bombarded with calls due to spread of Delta variant. Isolation &amp; quarantine will prioritize vulnerable populations and those in congregate settings. No slides.</p> <p><b>Project Vision Hawaii</b> – see attached slides.</p> <p>Remember to encourage staff and clients to wear masks indoors and outdoors and have a plan together for those that visit sites.</p>	
<b>ED Report</b>	<p><b>ED Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Department of Emergency Management</b> – great collaboration and partnership with regards to weather challenges that our houseless experience and how to address those issues.</li> <li>• <b>EHVs</b> – moving well with the state. Some issues with providers resistant to make the change from PSH to EHV.</li> <li>• <b>NOFO</b> – no word thus far. Concern regarding consolidated grant coming up on April 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>• <b>Point in Time Count</b> – requesting updates from HUD local office regarding progression of PIT. At this time, PIT is moving forward. Letter to HUD has been drafted regarding a delayed count due to high COVID positivity rates. Bob moves to accept and send the letter to HUD requesting a postponement, Greg Payton seconds. None oppose, none abstain.</li> <li>• <b>YHDP</b> – everyone completed first annual progress report.</li> <li>• <b>OHN</b> – past 90% of goal, program going well. Program received approval from HUD and City to pay month-to-month for anyone coming up on their one-year if needed. Possibly transitioning those folks to EHV.</li> </ul>	Motion passes
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<p><b>OYAB (Laura)</b> – continuing to meet. YHDP annual report was completed. Also, in talks about a new youth study. Last one completed in 2017 and there have been a lot of changes. Scott asks about YHDP funding and whether it will be competitive with the CoC. Laura says it could possibly be similar to how DV funds are separate, but it's not confirmed.</p> <p><b>Org Dev (Greg)</b> – focus has been Strategic Alignment. Next convening is January 20<sup>th</sup>. Heather requests feedback from the board regarding the process. Sharon has concerns with regards to when did we decide we needed</p>	

	<p>a separate entity and where the overlap is. Greg says there's still uncertainty and lack of clarity on why and how the split should happen. Sam mentions that breakout sessions need a little more balance regarding level of knowledge and understanding with regard to the CoC to ensure robust conversations happen.</p> <p><b>Awareness</b> (Laura) – Jere submitted an overview of the evaluations of the Homeless Awareness Conference. It was a good review; feedback states it was really good and requested a two-day tournament. Some comments reflected that some session descriptions did not accurately reflect what the session was really discussed. Trauma-informed discussion was a favorite. Laura to send out conference reviews.</p> <p><b>Advocacy</b> (Bob) – Legislative Priorities 2022 is attached. Marya moves to approve the Legislative Priorities, Aura Reyes seconds. None oppose, none abstain. Next meeting to be held</p> <p><b>Communications</b> – on hold</p> <p><b>Data</b> (Claire) – new user request from CORE has been approved pending a tour and training of the program. Aura asks about CORE services. Claire says the only requirement is that clients be homeless. CORE number is 808-768-CORE. Data quality is important regarding of funding sources and is managed by the Data Committee. Scott inquires about the quality of our CoC data; to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>CES Oversight</b> (Laura) – broader discussion about the use of Housing First and what the barriers are. No meeting last month, so next meeting is for catching up on priorities.</p> <p><b>Planning</b> (Jillian) – waiting to hear about award for NOFO. Point in Time Count letter will go out. Housing First needs to be implemented consistently across the CoC, so possibly trainings will be coming regarding proper implementation and addressing barriers. To be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	Motion passes
<b>Old Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board Retreat/Strategic Planning</b> – need to ensure an equitable and productive process where everyone gets a voice, but still remains on task.</li> <li>• <b>501c3 Board</b> – focus has been on fiscal management. Also, been inviting programs from PIC to educate the board on what each group does i.e. HMIS and LEP, etc. Laura adds that there is 100% board donation for 2021. A board member asked about becoming a CoC member for better engagement, which Laura supports. Heather mentions some combined planning with the CoC needs to happen soon.</li> </ul>	
<b>New Business</b>	<p><b>January 18<sup>th</sup> PIC General Meeting -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation</b> – Project Vision to present on the current COVID landscape and 2022 Legislative Priorities.</li> <li>• <b>THUD Committee Staffers</b> – will be meeting to review CORE, YHDP and DV programs.</li> </ul>	
<b>Meeting Adjourn</b>	Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am	Meeting ends
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Next meeting is on Tuesday, February 3 <sup>rd</sup> at 10am.	

# PARTNERS IN CARE

*Oahu's Continuum of Care*

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*Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.*

January 6, 2022

Marcia Fudge  
Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20410

**RE:** Requesting a postponement of unsheltered Point In Time Count

Aloha Secretary Fudge.

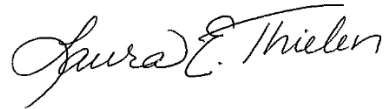
Hawaii, along with the rest of the United States, has recently seen a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases over the last several weeks. Today in Hawaii, we reached a record high of 4,789 new cases of COVID with a positivity rate of more than 18%. In projections compiled by the Hawaii Pandemic Applied Modeling work Group, we are expecting a daily peak of more than 900 hospitalizations towards the end of January which greatly exceeds hospital capacities for the entire state. Currently, we have our Point In Time Count scheduled for the morning of January 27<sup>th</sup>, reflecting where people spent the night on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

While we are cognizant of the need to collect data regarding the current issue of homelessness, we feel that it would be inappropriate and unsafe to hold the count in January due to COVID. In past years, we have had hundreds of providers and community members volunteer in the extensive count and survey of those experiencing homelessness on Oahu. We do not feel that we should ignore the significant risk to health and safety of our providers, our clients and our community. Several providers are currently seeing an increase of employees absence due to contraction and/or exposure to COVID. We feel that conducting the PITC would exacerbate these issues and put people into life threatening situations and jeopardize services being provided to those experiencing homelessness.

While we do not feel that it would be prudent to conduct the 2022 PITC in January, we would like to consider a postponement of the count until later in the year when COVID cases have decreased significantly. We have continued to train and plan for the count and postponement and reevaluation at a later date seems prudent. We would like to suggest a March or April date for the Count if possible. If a postponement is approved, we would like to conduct a sheltered and unsheltered count at the later date so that there is no possibility of double counting individuals.

We respectfully request that HUD approve our request of a postponement of the 2022 Point In Time Count.

Aloha and Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura E. Thielen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "T".

Laura E. Thielen  
Executive Director  
Partners In Care – Oahu’s Continuum of Care

CC: U.S. Senator Brian Schatz  
William Snow, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development  
Norm Suchar, Director of the Special Needs Assistance Programs  
Ryan Okahara, HUD Honolulu Field Office Director  
Mark Chandler, HUD Honolulu Office of Community Planning and Development  
Director  
Heather Lusk, Executive Director H3RC, Oahu CoC Advisory Board Chair

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January 11, 2022

[HICPITCount@hud.gov](mailto:HICPITCount@hud.gov)

Marcia L. Fudge  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20410

Attn:  
William Snow  
Program Specialist  
Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**RE:** HI-501 Honolulu, Requesting a postponement of sheltered/unsheltered Point In Time Count to March 10, 2020, reflective of where people are sleeping on the night of the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Aloha Secretary Fudge.

Hawaii, along with the rest of the United States, has recently seen a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases over the last several weeks. Today in Hawaii, we reached a record high of 4,789 new cases of COVID with a positivity rate of more than 18%. In projections compiled by the Hawaii Pandemic Applied Modeling work Group, we are expecting a daily peak of more than 900 hospitalizations towards the end of January which greatly exceeds hospital capacities for the entire state. Currently, we have our Point In Time Count scheduled for the morning of January 27<sup>th</sup>, reflecting where people spent the night on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

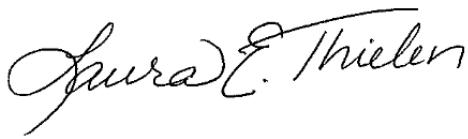
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While we do not feel that it would be prudent to conduct the 2022 PITC in January, we would like to consider a postponement of the count until later in the year when COVID cases have

decreased significantly. We have continued to train and plan for the count and postponement and reevaluation at a later date seems prudent. We would like to suggest March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, reflecting where people slept the night of March 9<sup>th</sup> for the Sheltered and Unsheltered Count. It is important that we keep both the sheltered and unsheltered count for the same time period to decrease the possibility of duplication.

We respectfully request that HUD approve our request of a postponement of the 2022 Point In Time Count.

Aloha and Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura E. Thielen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Laura E. Thielen  
Executive Director  
Partners In Care – Oahu’s Continuum of Care

CC: Norm Suchar, Director of the Special Needs Assistance Programs  
Ryan Okahara, HUD Honolulu Field Office Director  
Mark Chandler, HUD Honolulu Office of Community Planning and Development  
Director  
Heather Lusk, Executive Director H3RC, Oahu CoC Advisory Board Chair

**Broad CoC level legislative priorities** for the 2022 legislative session  
(based on what has been discussed among PIC & BTG members)  
As of 12/22/21 BTG/PIC Advocacy meeting  
(Coc/PIC Board approved 1/6/22)

- Affordable rental housing stock
  - Funding for more affordable units, including through RHRF, DURF
  - Expansion of shallow subsidies (e.g., HPHA, TANF/TAONF)
  - Ohana Zones
- Address upfront barriers to accessing existing rental housing
  - Housing voucher discrimination (e.g., landlords refusing Section 8 or other subsidies)
  - Rental application screening fees
- Support policies and programs that assist transitions for key homeless sub-populations
  - Supportive housing
  - Mental health supports
  - Ohana Zones