

Family Services Meeting Minutes - 6/10/25

Attending: Tana Bloom, Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, Rachel Cloutier, Way Finders, Mayra de Jesus, Shriners, Jen Dieringer, CLA, Luray Fladd, YWCA, Erin Forbush, ServiceNet, Brenda Garcia, BHN, Ivelisse Gonzalez, New North Citizens Council, Luis Martinez, STCC Center for Access Services, Lizzy Ortiz, C3 Health Care for the Homeless, Tina Rockwood, Salasin Project, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Rachel Trant, DCF, Janette Vigo, Way Finders, Melissa White, Valley Opportunity Council, Carla Zhingre, Community Action Head Start

Family Shelter update:

Big picture update:

- Statewide, the current number of shelter units is at over 4,300 units.
- The Healey Administration has stated that it is aiming to reduce the total number to 3,200 by Jan. 1 through phases (July 1, October 1, January 1). For the Central/Western region (how HLC organizes it), there are currently 1,304 beds and the goal is to reduce to 950. Providers are still waiting to get more information but there will clearly be a reduction in bed capacity. Unclear where the unit reduction will take place but likely among scattered site units with more emphasis on congregate sites. All providers are accounting for their units now and are standing by.
- The family providers' new scope of services increases deliverables without additional funding, e.g., shorter turnaround time to get units back on line and repair any damages. Still studying the scope and assessing feedback to the Administration.
- Family providers are focused on rehousing families, relying on HomeBASE but frequently seeing families needing to adjust the pay-out of the HomeBASE benefit to allow for higher rents - foreshadowing the "cliff" when the HomeBASE benefits run out.
- CHD has closed all its hotels and rehoused all families. They have housed over 220 families this fiscal year to date.

Federal budget update and actions:

The Trump Administration threatens massive cuts through multiple budget processes (the reconciliation bill and the FY26 budget). [See this recent action alert](#) from the National Alliance to End Homelessness and this [organizational sign-on letter](#) from the National Low-Income Housing Coalition.

FY26 State Budget update:

Work on the final FY26 budget is now in the Conference Committee where differences between the House and Senate budgets are being resolved. [Go here](#) to take action and learn more about the Network's budget requests.

The Network Annual Gathering revisited: Make sure you catch up to the powerful words of our tenant speakers, Bennita Watford and Nancy Dorian, and other speakers as well - [see the video and more here](#) (you'll find Bennita at minute 37 and Nancy at minute 54).

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 11 am