

Fresno Madera Lived Experience Advisory Board

August 24, 2022 1-3PM

MEETING SUMMARY

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- LEAB Member Attendees:
 - Audra Hewlett
 - Mary Mason
 - Terrence Prayer
 - Francine Ramirez
 - Alex Sanchez
 - Allis Vallejo
- Other Attendees:
 - Maya Spark, Homebase
 - Misty Gattie-Blanco, CoC Treasurer
 - Doreen Eley, CoC Collaborative Applicant
- Introductions
- Doreen Eley gave an overview of Fresno Madera Homeless System of Care
 - A CoC is a regional planning body of representative stakeholders within Fresno and Madera Counties that coordinates the community's policies, strategies, and activities toward preventing and ending homelessness. Its work includes gathering and analyzing information in order to determine the local needs of people experiencing homelessness, implementing strategic responses, educating the community on homeless issues, providing advice and input on the operations of homeless services, and measuring CoC performance.
- Maya Spark provided an overview of what a Lived Experience Advisory Board is.
 - What does Lived Experience mean? – Can be anyone who identifies as having experienced homelessness; can mean you stayed in a shelter once, you lived in a vehicle, you've lived outside, etc. This group is being formed to provide a space where people who have experienced homelessness can inform discussions and decisions about programs and systems that are addressing homeless and housing issues in Fresno and Madera counties.
 - The LEAB should be a safe space for honest feedback where your experiences and ideas are not only heard but are discussed and

acted upon. The goal of the LEAB is to engage your lived expertise in decision-making regarding the system of homeless and housing services in Fresno and Madera.

- There are upcoming funding streams that the CoC would like the LEAB to be involved with if interested:
 - Appeals Panel for CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): Sept. 7 from 1-3PM
 - Special NOFO review and feedback in September and October and Appeals Panel
 - Coordinated Entry System Evaluation in early 2023
 - Assist with formation of a Youth Advisory Board
 - Developing LEAB framework/governance

II. GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER:

- LEAB Members shared their stories and did longer introductions.

III. DISCUSSION OF LEAB MEMBERSHIP AND ROLES:

- Maya Spark review parts of the proposed LEAB framework. The LEAB will work on the Framework, but the CoC's subcommittee came up with this initial proposed one. Some parts of the Framework are constrained by budget – i.e. how long the meetings are and the frequency of the meetings.
 - Total membership – minimum of 5, maximum of 12. Term length of 2 years at a time. All members should have lived experience of homelessness- past or present and can now be in any housing situation - currently homeless, recently housed, housed for awhile. Most members should have experienced homelessness within the past 5 years and the homelessness should have been within Fresno and Madera Counties- but again, this is something the LEAB will decide on/finalize.
 - LEAB Co-Chair and Other Roles
 - LEAB Role in Relation to CoC – CoC Board Member- formerly homeless; Co-Chair/Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary roles
 - **The LEAB voted to make Alex Sanchez the LEAB Chair.** The vote was unanimous with no objections. Alex Sanchez abstained from voting.
 - Continued outreach and representation: The LEAB should strive to represent the population being served by the Fresno Madera CoC. When doing outreach for LEAB members, the LEAB should be intentional to ensure this representation. The LEAB should discuss how to ensure marginalized groups want to or are willing to join the LEAB.

- Misty walked through stipend information and the stipend preference form and will be distributed in writing.
 - The CoC wants to be sure LEAB members' time and expertise is respected. Compensation through stipends for participation is one method communities use, including ours, to recognize the valuable skills and experience of people with lived expertise of homelessness.
 - Misty reviewed the how stipends/compensation can have implications for LEAB participants who are involved in benefit programs and then reviewed stipend logistics.

IV. NEXT MEETING DATE:

- Next meeting September 28th from 3-5PM.