



MINUTES
IMPERIAL VALLEY CONTINUUM OF CARE COUNCIL
VULNERABLE POPULATION COMMITTEE MEETING

May 10, 2022

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Meeting via Zoom

Name	Organization	Present
Emmanuel Sanchez	Imperial County Dept. Social Services	X
Wendy Betancourt	Imperial County Probation Department	X
Diana Rosas	Imperial County Dept. Social Services	X
Miguel Villalpando	National Community Health Partners	X
Jacob Bermudez	Area Agency on Aging	X
Sandra Alvarez	I.C. Department of Social Services - Adult	X
Jose Lepe	Imperial County Behavioral Health Services	X
Leticia Plancarte	Imperial County Behavioral Health Services	X
Joab Gonzalez	San Diego Regional Medical Center	X
Ana Norris	Adjoin	X
Esperanza Colio	Imperial County Executive Office	X
Araceli Lopez	Imperial County Dept. Social Services	X
Mersedes Martinez	El Centro Regional Medical Center	X
Anna Garcia	City of El Centro	X

- A. **Welcome and Introductions:** Meeting began at approximately 3:02 p.m. All attendees introduced themselves.

- B. **Agenda Additions/Changes:** No changes to the Agenda. The group moved to approve the minutes.

- C. **Approval of April 12, 2022 Minutes:** The group moved to approve the minutes.

- D. **Review of Outstanding Action Items/ Street Outreach Documents:** Emmanuel Sanchez and Mrs. Plancarte provided an update and summary of key points on the homeless outreach information that was shared with the group earlier in the week. Three documents were shared. Mrs. Plancarte mentioned the importance of making a connection and earning the trust of individuals experiencing homelessness before discussing services. Mrs. Plancarte suggested that one of the goals we can set up for this committee is to develop a training for all agencies about the best practices to approach the homeless population, those living in shelters and at-risk population that we might not visually see in the streets but perhaps are living with others (couch surfing). It was presented that these outreach groups would be more successful when they are formed by members of different agencies. It is also important to understand every individual is different and some are more receptive to receiving help than others. If the committee ultimately decides to develop a local document that provides guidance on best practices for providing street outreach to those experiencing homelessness, it is requested that those agencies and individuals with experience submit their suggestions, language and any other recommendations.

E. **Discussion of Proposed Tasks/Goals for 2022:** It was presented that we needed to establish a mission statement for the committee. Mrs. Plancarte asked, what do members see as the mission and goals of the group? Is it to educate, to provide information, to develop policies, what role do you see serving as a member of this committee? Mrs. Garcia mentioned it was very important to note that when we provide public outreach, we must know what services are readily available that way we can connect individuals experiencing homelessness to services without having to reach out to multiple organizations. Mrs. Colio also mentioned that we needed to have a plan/strategy (guidelines) in place that could assist during emergency situations to house individuals and families that have been displaced due to emergency situations such as fires, earthquakes and other unforeseen events. We need to ensure those affected receive assistance as soon as possible because many of them need immediate assistance. Mrs. Colio also noted that she has been told by the State that Imperial County is one of the quickest counties to respond to such emergencies however larger cities do have larger non-profit organizations who are well organized and able to provide immediate assistance. This group can create the guidelines that could be part of the overall goals for this group. Mr. Lepe suggested we identify following:

- **What is the Mission of this Committee?**
- **What are our goals? What do we need to accomplish?**

F. **Action Items for Next Meeting:** 1) Submit any recommended mission statements for this committee. 2) Submit any proposed goals are you recommending for this committee.

G. **Roundtable Discussion:** No additional comments.

- **Describe the Goal(s)/Purpose of this committee: (1) Develop strategies to identify and serve vulnerable populations that might include veterans, homeless youth, DV victims and LGBTQ community amongst others. (2) Explore funding opportunities for these populations. (3) Identify gaps in services for these populations, evaluate needs, provide recommendations to improve services. (4) Develop awareness of issues related to homeless veterans, homeless youth, homeless LGBT community, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and those attempting to flee.**