

**MERCED CONTINUUM OF CARE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
369 West 18th Street, Merced
Wednesday, April 8, 2009
8:00 a.m.**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Oral Communications**
 - At this time any person may comment on any item that is not on the Agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes per person.
 - Please state your name for record.
 - Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If it requires action, it will be referred to staff and/or placed on the next agenda.
- 3. Information only:**
 - *Minutes of the March 18, 2009 General Collaborative Meeting*
 - *News Articles*
 - *Homeless Prevention Fund*
- 4. Minutes of the March 11th, 2009 Executive Council Meeting**

Requires motion to approve and file.
- 5. General Collaborative Agenda**

*Workgroup Updates
Continuum of Care Plan – Establish Goals
Street Count Presentation (if available)*
- 6. MCAG Governing Board Action – 10 Year Plan**

Discuss next steps.
- 7. Request for Projects**

Staff will provide update.
- 8. Executive Council Membership**

Item continued from March meeting. Staff will provide applications received to date.
- 9. Executive Council Announcements / Coordinator Announcements**
- 10. Adjourn**

**MERCED CONTINUUM OF CARE
GENERAL COLLABORATIVE MEETING
MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
678 West 18th Street, Merced, CA
Wednesday, March 18, 2009
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kelly Bentz, Merced Union High School District
Su Briggs, Community Action Agency
Jim Bunnell, Human Services Agency Adult Services
Denise Cannistraci, Impact House
John Carlisle, City of Merced City Council
Leng Chang, Merced Lao Family
Connie Cole, Social Security Administration
Patti Dossetti, Grant Writer
Nyla Janine Henry, Social Security Administration
Linda Lopez, Congressman Cardoza
Christina Kraushar, Department of Mental Health
Della Latham, Mental Health
Roberta Medina, City of Merced Code Enforcement
Suzanne Nunez, Social Security Administration
Mae Pierini, Office of Education
Terry Raley, Love INC
Dennis Queen, Public Health
Fr. Fred Risard, Episcopal Church
Darrell Rogers, Impact House
Audrey Slocum, Mental Health
Terry Tatum, Executive Council Chair
Georgene Tarbox, Employment Development Department
Louise Tilston, Public Health
Karen Whipp, K.L. Whip & Co.

STAFF PRESENT

Lori Flanders, Assistant Planner
Jesse Brown, Executive Director

1. Welcome

Chair Tatum welcomed the group and introduced staff from Social Security Administration.

2. Social Security Administration

Janine provided a brief history of the Social Security Administration (SSA), their existing programs, and eligible claimants.

Connie provided an overview of Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Highlights included:

- Maximum benefit (as of today) - \$907
- Average case takes 3-4 months to process
- 60 days to appeal a decision
- Medical examination required; helps if claimants can provide medical records at time of application.
- New direct express card (like an ATM) card.
- Payee services available in Merced County through Catholic Charities and Public Guardian.

Suzanne provided a tour of www.socialsecurity.gov

3. Oral Communications

Stanley Slaughter is a homeless veteran living in Merced. He expressed the need for services and housing for the veteran's population in the Merced County area. Currently veterans have to travel to Fresno or Modesto to receive benefits. He has spoken to the Merced City Council as well as the Merced County Board of Supervisors regarding the existing gap. Mr. Slaughter also commented that most of the homeless veterans have an income, they just need to have access to affordable transitional housing.

Audrey Slocuum announced that the One Stop Shop at the D Street Shelter has moved to Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

4. Minutes of the February 18, 2009 General Collaborative Meeting

So noted.

5. United Way, Funding from Sheriffs Department

Chair Tatum explained that Flip Hassett, Director of the United Way, was unable to attend today's meeting.

6. Executive Council Vacancies

Chair Tatum announced two existing vacancies, Non-Profit and Business Representatives. She directed members to complete an application if interested and submit to Lori. Lori provide an overview of the Council's role and responsibilities.

7. Workgroup Updates

Housing & Shelter – Lori explained that the Chair of this committee recently resigned and the group is in need of leadership. She explained that only three individuals attended the first meeting. Lori asked Denise Cannistraci to provide an overview of their discussion.

Denise informed the committee that the workgroup needs more support and participation. She commented that this is a major component to ending homelessness. Denise explained that the highest priority should be permanent housing with supportive services.

She also informed the group that her organization, Impact House, is submitting a proposal for the 2009 CoC Plan/Application for two homes to house up to 12 homeless individuals. She lobbied for the group to partner with her to create a successful program.

Darrell, also with Impact House, commented that the CoC Housing/Shelter workgroup would also need to focus on housing for veterans and foster youth. He also lobbied for partners from Mental Health, social service agencies, and church groups.

In addition, Darrell would like to see the group begin discussing a plan for the summer and winter months to avoid last minute emergencies.

Supportive Services - Jim Bunnell provided an overview of his groups first meeting. Identified issues included:

- Valid mailing addresses
- Day services
- Transportation
- Job searching
- Domestic violence services
- Services for pets
- Obtaining ID's

The workgroup decided that Valley Crisis Center is already providing domestic violence services and that Worknet is providing job search services. Their focus turned to providing a true One Stop Shop for the Internet (Network of Care) and walk-in services. Jim expressed the need to advertise to make it successful. Ideas the workgroup considered was a hotline that homeless individual(s) could call for proper referral, as well as turning the hospital into a One Stop Shop for all services.

Terry Raley commented that Larry from Central Presbyterian Church has created a proposal for the County that requests the hospital be used for a One Stop Shop. The name of the project is Merced Community Gateway Mall. Terry will send the proposal to Lori for disbursement to the Continuum.

Healthcare – Father Risard commented that the Healthcare group has held two meetings. They feel that an Internet site would be most beneficial so that service providers can identify each other easily. He explained that he has asked Larry Morse to contact Francis House in Sacramento to possibly provide a seminar to our local CoC on how they are able to operate <http://franchishouse.info/about.html>

CoC Process – Patti Dossetti explained that their group was focused on the Continuum taking full advantage of all funding available to Merced County.

They designed a user-friendly proposal form that collects all the necessary data required for submittal once HUD releases the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in May or June. In addition, they provided several examples of other Continuums that have successfully received funding to avoid smaller agencies feeling intimidated about the process.

8. Informational Items:

- News Articles
- Save the Date Flyer, CSU Stanislaus
- Homeless Prevention Funds
- Grant Opportunities

9. Announcements from group?

Council member Carlisle provided a brief overview of a letter sent to the City of Merced regarding Economic Recovery monies available from HUD. It was a three-page letter, but page two was missing. He did provide the following highlights:

- Community Development Block Grant - \$336,919
- Homeless Prevention Fund - \$515,203

10. Adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Friday, Mar. 20, 2009

Group awaits money

Mission is expecting federal grant funds

By Corey Pride / cpride@losbanosenterprise.com

The recent passage of the state budget may prove to be good news for the Los Baños Rescue Mission.

The facility is hoping to receive word this week on whether it will get funding that will allow it to purchase its location and extend its efforts to help the under-privileged.

"We were awarded a grant from the state," said Steve Hammond, the mission's executive director. "We're hoping for \$1 million."

Hammond said the grant funding was previously frozen because of the state not having an approved budget. He said he has no idea if the state is going to give the mission the seven figures it requested or a lesser amount.

Any additional money would help the rescue mission's situation.

The property where the Los Baños Rescue Mission is currently located was in foreclosure last August.

The 1231 Fourth St. property was issued a Notice of Default on Aug. 27. Documents in the Merced County Recorder's office indicate that as of Aug. 22 the amount owed on the property to prevent it from being sold off was \$68,548. Hammond said the property is no longer in foreclosure but he is awaiting word on how much it will cost the mission to buy it.

The property, which was owned by Victory Outreach church, had been rented to the Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army since 2007. Hammond, who is also involved in the local Salvation Army, said for the past few months rent has been paid directly to the property's lender, University Investors of San Jose.

In what he admits may be a sign of how bad the economy has become, Hammond said the mission is serving more meals every month. Hammond said last month 1,900 meals were served.

"We're hearing the same thing from other rescue missions across the Valley, their numbers are up," Hammond said.

Even if the mission gets enough money to stay at its location it may still have to move.

The city is reviewing the housing element of its general plan, which will include an area designated for homeless services.

So far Hammond is encouraged by the inclusion of the Fourth Street address in the housing element document.

"After all the public hearings our site is on that map. It will be presented to the City Council that way," Hammond said.

The Rev. Chris Castaneda, who heads the local chapter of Victory Outreach, wrote in an e-mail that his group has scaled back but not eliminated its work in Los Baños.

"We are still operating in Los Baños and we are looking for another building to move into. For the time being, we have scaled back on our services and activities until we relocate and settle in to another place. We are focusing on re-organizing our ministries and establishing new goals for 2009," Castaneda wrote.



CNN.com

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Tent city becomes home in tough times

- Story Highlights
- Tent city in Seattle, Washington, houses 50 to 100 people
- Residents say they formed tent city because of dissatisfaction with shelters
- "We don't just take in everybody," resident says
- Nearby homeowner says of tent city dwellers: "That could be us one day"

By Patrick Oppmann
CNN

SEATTLE, Washington (CNN) -- The homeless men and women shuffle across the frozen ground of the tent camp and surround a steel drum burning wood. They use the flames to cook food and to stay warm.

The tents they live in are small, covered by tarps and plastic sheeting to keep water out. Several tents are collapsed under the weight of a recent snowfall.

For Bruce Beavers, however, this camp is just about the best place in the world he could be living right now.

"This is a place for people who lose their jobs, lose their houses, to have some kind of structure and for them to get back out in the world," he says.

Set up in the parking lot of a church near Seattle, Washington, the camp houses anywhere from 50 to 100 homeless people each day.

Residents call it Nickelsville. The name takes a page from the infamous "Hooverville" shantytowns of the Great Depression that were named for a president many thought did not care about their economic hardships. [Watch resident give tour, explain rules »](#)

Some residents here say they blame Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and a system they believe makes it difficult to escape homelessness.

"In shelters, if you don't get there in time enough, you don't have your bed no more 'cause there are so many people trying to rush in to get it," Beavers says. "Got a lotta people losing their homes. You don't want to go all the way to the bottom. Nickelsville is kind of a catch in between."

Like many of the other Nickelodeons -- as the people who share this church parking lot call themselves -- Bruce Beavers never expected to be homeless. He managed warehouses and hardware stores, had a 401(k) plan and owned his home. But when he began falling behind on home payments, Beavers says, he "tried something slick, something illegal" to make up the difference. Instead he got caught and lost everything.

Beavers and other homeless say they were tired of a shelter system that often splits up families into different housing, does not provide a place for people to keep their possessions while they look for work and offers too few beds. So they say they decided to try their own way.

They formed a camp where the homeless living there would know they had a guaranteed place to stay. There would be around-the-clock security to keep people from having their things stolen, the tents would be built from donated materials, and alcohol and drugs would not be permitted. It would be a place for people trying to get out of [homelessness](#).


Evan Balverde is a plumber who came to Nickelsville after an accident forced him to stop working.

"We don't just take in everybody," Balverde says. "We'd like to, but the thing is just a lot of these people out here are mentally incapable or they're drug addicts or alcoholics and stuff, and that's why they are on the streets. We don't put up with that."

"We're here for people in rough times and homeless, but if you are doing it to yourself, then this isn't the place for you."

The dubious legality of the camp set the organizers on a collision course with the city, and several times police have moved the Nickelodeons off the land on which they were squatting. An invitation to relocate the camp outside a local church gave Nickelsville a reprieve, at least for the time being.

Johnny Turner, a homeless man who helped found the camp, says he would like to see Nickelsville grow into a permanent shelter that could accept more people needing a place to go.

"We need more Nickelsvilles," he says. "There's nowhere else."  [See photos of Depression-era tent cities »](#)

Al Poole of the Seattle Human Services Department says the city spends nearly \$8 million a year on the homeless. Still, there aren't always beds available for every person needing one, and sometimes families do need to be placed in different shelters.

While tent cities might fulfill an immediate need, Poole explains, they also can have the negative effect of turning people who live near the camps against the homeless.

Walking around the neighborhood that borders Nickelsville, it is hard to imagine that many residents are happy that their homes now face a homeless camp.

And many residents were upset, says homeowner Roland Bradley, when the camp first arrived at their street.

"We had a meeting at the church the week before they came," Bradley says. "One of the concerns that people had was about crime and people breaking into their home and children being molested and noise. But that hasn't happened."

Motioning to the camp, Bradley adds: "The reality is that could be us one day."

All About[Homelessness](#) • [Unemployment Rate](#)

Find this article at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/LIVING/wayoflife/03/19/seattle.tent.city/index.html>

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Posted on Tue, Mar. 10, 2009

National child homeless rate hits home in Valley

By Cynthia Hubert
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By Sue Nowicki
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last updated: March 10, 2009 01:21:27 AM

In and out of classrooms, sleeping in shelters, shielded by parents, homeless children can seem invisible to society at large.

A national study released Monday finds that 1 in 50 children in the United States is homeless. They're sharing housing because of economic hardship, living in motels, cars, abandoned buildings, parks, campgrounds or shelters, or waiting for foster care placement.

"That is something that I don't think most people intuitively believe to be true," said Ellen Bassuk, an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and president of the National Center on Family Homelessness.

The national center last did such a report 10 years ago, and numbers of children without a permanent place to sleep are growing.

Herb Opalek, chief executive officer of the Merced County Rescue Mission and president of the Pacific District of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, which has 72 in California, said there's no doubt the number of homeless children is on the rise.

"In speaking to directors all across California, they're all seeing an increase in (homeless) children," he said Monday. "We just had a discussion about this last week."



A recent study reveals more children are experiencing homelessness. At left, Genie Garcia, with one of her four children, Jessy Garcia, 10, who says that being homeless is aggravating and not fun. They are staying at the women's shelter at The Gospel Mission in Modesto, March 9, 2009. (Debbie Noda/The Modesto Bee) - Modesto Bee - Debbie Noda

A recent study reveals more children are experiencing homelessness.

At the Modesto Gospel Mission, Barbara Deatherage agreed that numbers of homeless children are up.

"We participate in a snapshot survey every year for the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions," she said. "This last year, I noticed that our percentage of homeless under 18 was substantially higher than our national average."

She was out of town Monday and couldn't give specific numbers. But, she said: "What we are seeing a really big increase in is those resourcing our community distribution center for clothing and food. We probably see 2,000 to 3,000 people a month now. We also have an increase in the number of children coming to have dinner with their families."

On Monday, Genie Garcia and her four children were getting ready for the shelter's 5 p.m. dinner.

Garcia said she first ended up homeless in 2007 and has bounced around since then, staying with family, friends and at the Gospel Mission's women and children's shelter.

She receives \$555 monthly in cash assistance, not enough to rent an apartment big enough for her family, she said.

"I wish there were more people that would help you, instead of just judge you on how many kids you have," said Garcia.

'Kind of not understandable'

Her 10-year-old twins, Tammy and Jessy, have different takes on their situation. The sisters are fifth-graders at a Modesto elementary school.

Tammy called being homeless "like living in the wild." But she said she likes meeting new people and friends at the shelter. The beds there are comfortable, Tammy said, especially when she sleeps with her teddy bear.

Jessy said the upheaval in her family's life is "aggravating" and "not fun." She only talks to her best friend about it. "It's kind of not understandable," said Jessy.

Maris Sturtevant is chief operating officer of the United Samaritans Foundation, which feeds people throughout Stanislaus County and provides services to homeless people in Turlock.

"I couldn't define how many more children are homeless, but there are more people using the services of our trucks and our lunch program than before," she said.

"In 2007, we served 408,000 lunches. In 2008, we served 422,000. So, a big increase. We're certainly seeing an increase in our emergency food boxes, too."

In Merced County, Opalek said: "We used to have four or five children come for breakfast every morning. Now there can be anywhere from 12 to 20. You see more of them in the (homeless) camps out here.

"I've seen an increase in homeless children all over the county. You can see them in alleys, in streets, at food lines, at churches. It's only going to get worse, unfortunately."

The national center's study, America's Youngest Outcasts, shows that California had 292,624 homeless children, the 10th-largest population in the nation, during the time of its count, the 2005-06 school year. The group counted 1.5 million homeless kids across the country, about 200,000 more than a decade before.

'Close your eyes and pray'

Bassuk, the Harvard professor, said family and child homelessness is a "relatively new problem," largely the result of more families splintering and becoming impoverished.

"Many more of these families are headed by females. ... They tend to be a lot poorer," Bassuk said, citing a lack of affordable housing and a dearth of social programs geared toward families and children.

The national report makes a raft of recommendations for federal and state policy planners to deal with the issue. Among other things, it calls for programs that would give needy people better access to affordable housing, increases in nutrition programs for homeless children, expanded health services for families, and improved access to early childhood education.

"The very first thing we need to do is make sure that people realize that we do have a problem, and focus more planning efforts on families and kids," said Bassuk.

Opalek, when asked if there is an answer to the problem, said, "Close your eyes and pray," then added, "What needs to be done is for all the nonprofit and faith-based agencies to get together with the government to work out some way to allow us to handle the programs until money comes back into the system.

"It's so crucial for government agencies and nonprofit agencies to convene ... and see how we can supplement each other. We're all doing it independently right now. Let's see what we can do working together to help all these people."

Bee staff writer Leslie Albrecht contributed to this report.

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Monday, Mar. 30, 2009

Health care nonprofit opens Merced office

Health care nonprofit opens Merced office

The Central Coast Alliance for Health is opening an office in the city of Merced to help get a regional nonprofit Medi-Cal health plan going.

The alliance will be recruiting approximately 50 local staff over the next few months to help run the office, which will serve approximately 62,000 Medi-Cal beneficiaries in Merced County beginning in October 2009.

Physicians in the alliance's network earn, on average, 150 percent of the Medi-Cal rates through the plans payments and incentive programs. Merced County will share in the governance of the plan and will have seven representatives, appointed by the Merced County Board of Supervisors, on the alliance's board. The new board will have its first meeting in April.

-- Carol Reiter

**MERCED CONTINUUM OF CARE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Merced County Association of Governments
369 West 18th Street, Merced
Wednesday, March 11, 2009
8:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Monika Grasely, Concerned Citizen
Mae Pierini, Merced County Office of Education (arrived at 2pm)
Terry Tatum, Faith-based Representative
Su Briggs, Community Action Agency
Terry Nichols, Department of Rehabilitation
Masoud Niroumand, City of Merced
Prapai Werkenblam (for Herb Opalek)

OTHERS PRESENT

Darrell Rogers, Impact House
Denise Cannistraci, Impact House
Patti Dosetti, Grant Writer
Dennis Queen, Public Health
Fr. Fred Risard, Episcopal Church
Bridget Spence, Department of Rehabilitation
Lori Flanders, MCAG
Jesse Brown, MCAG

1. Welcome

Chair Tatum called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Oral Communications

Father Risard wanted to know if the Council would be addressing possible expansion of the Executive Council as he requested at their last meeting.

Chair Tatum informed him that item 8, Continuum of Care Bylaws, would address that topic.

Monika Grasely asked Prapai (representative for Herb Opalek), if the Rescue Mission was going to have their "Sleep Out for the Homeless Event" on March 13th as mentioned in November. Prapai was unsure and will follow up with Herb.

Chair Tatum asked Lori to contact Flip Hassett with United Way to provide a brief overview at the March General Collaborative meeting regarding the \$30,000 that was provided to United Way from the Sheriffs Department.

3. Information only:

- *Minutes of the February 25, 2009 General Collaborative Meeting*
- *News Articles*
- *Project Home Start Annual Progress Report*
- *Homeless Prevention Fund*

Lori explained that the City of Merced has been allocated \$515,000 for this program. Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be released on March 19th with further details.

So noted.

4. Minutes of the February 9th, February 23rd, and March 3rd, 2009 Executive Council Meetings

Monika Grasely made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9th, February 23rd, and March 3rd, 2009 Executive Council meetings
Seconded by Mae Pierini.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. General Collaborative

Lori explained that a workshop will be held by the Social Security Administration from 1:00-2:00 p.m. and that the regular meeting will be held from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Discussion topics for the meeting will include existing vacancies on the Executive Council as well as updates from the workgroups that were established at the January meeting.

Chair Tatum asked that discussion regarding a committee to establish a winter shelter plan take place at the March meeting.

6. Project Proposal Form

Patti Dosetti, Chair of the CoC Process Workgroup, provided an overview of the workgroups first meeting. The groups primary focus was to brainstorm how the continuum could successfully apply for the full amount of CoC grant dollars available from HUD.

The group created a project proposal form that they believe covers all the necessary requirements and is user friendly. A copy of the proposal form was passed out to attendees.

Mae Pierini made a motion to adopt the project proposal form created by the CoC Process Workgroup.

Seconded by Monika Grasley.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Request for Projects

Terry Nichols made a motion to authorize staff to post a request for projects on the MCAG website and in local newspapers.

Seconded by Mae Pierini.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Continuum of Care Bylaws

Chair Tatum explained that Father Fred Risard requested the expansion of the Executive Council so that he may apply to become a member and that Director Kelsey recommended the Council include elected officials from the city and county. Chair Tatum further explained that there are two existing vacancies that have yet to be filled, Non-profit and Business Reps.

Mae Pierini commented that she would like to see the existing vacancies filled prior to recommending any expansion. Su Briggs agreed.

Monika Grasely also agreed with Mae's recommendation and commented that the Council will continue to have an open door policy for public comment.

Terry Nichols recommended recruitment occur at the next General Collaborative meeting and depending on the response from that recruitment, the Council can reevaluate the need to expand representation.

The Executive Council unanimously agreed to table the item until their April meeting allowing for time to gage the interests of community members wishing to serve on the Council.

9. Presentation by potential application: Impact House

Denise Cannitraci provided an overview of the existing program operated through Impact House. She explained that Impact House was interested in applying for funding for two homes through the CoC process, one in Atwater and one in Merced. Total proposed requests is for \$115,488.

10. Executive Council Announcements / Coordinator Announcements

Monika announced that six schools are now participating in donating un-used food to the Homeless Shelter.

Darrell Rogers announced that the homeless on the river are very grateful to the community for their donations.

**MERCED CONTINUUM OF CARE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Merced County Association of Governments
369 West 18th Street, Merced
Wednesday, April 8, 2009
8:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Monika Grasely, Concerned Citizen
Mae Pierini, Merced County Office of Education (arrived at 2pm)
Terry Tatum, Faith-based Representative
Su Briggs, Community Action Agency
Terry Nichols, Department of Rehabilitation
Masoud Niroumand, City of Merced

MEMBERS ABSENT

Herb Opalek, Merced County Rescue Mission

OTHERS PRESENT

Lori Flanders, MCAAG

1. Welcome

Chair Tatum called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

2. Oral Communications

Monika asked the committee their thoughts to include a background check for applicants of CoC funding.

After a brief discussion, the Council directed staff to contact HUD and other CoC's to research their existing practices.

3. Information only:

- *Minutes of the March 18, 2009 General Collaborative Meeting*
- *News Articles*
- *Homeless Prevention Fund*

Lori explained that the City of Merced has been allocated \$515,000 for this program. She provided an overview of the public comment/information meeting that was held on April 7th at the City of Merced. Proposals for the program are due to the City of Merced on April 20, 2009.

So noted.

4. Minutes of the March 11, 2009 Executive Council Meeting.

Su Briggs made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2009 Executive Council meeting.

Seconded by Mae Pierini.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. General Collaborative

Lori recommended the following items for the April 15, 2009 General Collaborative meeting:

- Workgroup Updates: Healthcare and Supportive Services.

Lori explained that the CoC Planning Process group has disbanded and the Housing-Shelter Committee lacks leadership at this point. Lori has contacted the Housing Authority and the Central Valley Coalition for Affordable Housing to possibly sign on. Masoud offered to join this committee as Housing Manager for the City of Merced.

Chair Tatum would like to see a sub-committee established to create an emergency shelter plan for the 2009/2010 winter months. Lori will include discussion at the April 15th CoC meeting. Monika recommended the council research a program called Family of Promise as a model. Church's combine efforts and take turns housing homeless families/children.

- Continuum of Care Plan – Establish Goals for 2009/2010
- Street Count Presentation

6. MCAG Governing Board Action – 10 Year Plan

Chair Tatum explained that the MCAG Governing Board directed staff to solicit plan funding from member agencies and community-based organizations and to release a RFP to prepare a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

Lori explained that staff would solicit funding from member agencies using a formula that is population based. She also asked the council if they'd be interested in having a study session regarding the 10 Year Plan lead by the Interagency Council on Homelessness. The council was in favor of the session and directed Lori to schedule for May.

7. Request for Projects

Lori explained that four agencies/non-profits have expressed an interest in submitting proposals for this years CoC competition.

8. Executive Council Membership

Lori reminded the council that this item is carryover from their March meeting. She provided the council copies of the two applications received to date; one represented faith based and the other a non-profit. They agreed that an expansion of the council was not necessary at this point, as we still have a vacancy for business representative.

Chair Tatum commented that several terms would be up at the end of the planning year, which will provide opportunity for new appointments.

Terry Nichols asked if Herb was still serving as a member. Mae offered to speak with Herb following the meeting.

9. Executive Council Announcements / Coordinator Announcements

Monika announced that seven schools are now participating in donating un-used food to the Homeless Shelter. She also commented that the next “No Homeowner Left Behind” workshop would be held on April 24th at Gateway Community Church.

Chair Tatum commented that while serving as a member on a United Way committee, she learned that the results of a recent community assessment show an increased need for food in Merced County.

Masoud announced that, until now, there has not been a counselor for local homeowners facing foreclosure that homeowners have had to travel to Fresno or Modesto. The City of Merced will now be providing office space for counseling staff to assist Merced area residents.

Mae announced that recent partnerships have developed among the Merced County Office of Education, the Dept of Recreation, Human Services Agency, and Community Action Agency to develop several programs (summer program, work program, drivers education, etc.) for 131 foster youth.

10. Adjourned at 9:23 a.m.