

**MERCED CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC)  
GENERAL COLLABORATIVE MEETING  
City of Merced – Sam Pipes Room  
678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced  
Wednesday, April 21, 2010  
2:00 p.m.**

- 1. Welcome & Introductions**
- 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 and address for record.*
  - *Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If action is required, it will be referred to staff and/or placed on the next agenda.*
- 3. Executive Council – Informational Only**
  - Vice Chair - 2010 Planning Year – Vacancy
  - Business Representative - Vacancy
- 4. City of Merced - Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Homelessness Update**
  - Mike Conway, City of Merced Public Information Officer
- 5. California Lifeline Telephone Program Update**
  - Deborah Bernal, California Lifeline
- 6. MCAG Governing Board Update**
  - Jeanette Garcia, CoC Coordinator, MCAG
- 7. Gaps Analysis - Discussion with possible action.**
  - Liz Freitas, County Mental Health
- 8. Informational Items**
  - Training Opportunities
  - Grant Opportunities
- 9. Other Announcements**
- 10. Adjournment**

*Next CoC General Collaborative Meeting – May 19, 2010 - 2:00 p.m.*

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GENERAL COLLABORATIVE MEETING  
City of Merced – Sam Pipes Room  
678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA  
Wednesday, April 21, 2010  
2:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Su Briggs, Merced County Community Action Agency  
Jim Bunnel, Adult Services, Merced County Human Services Agency  
John Carlisle, City Council, City of Merced  
Mike Conway, City of Merced  
Matt Hirota, recyclemerced.com  
Paul Lundberg, Concerned Citizen  
Renee Mounce, D Street Shelter, Merced County Community Action Agency  
Roberta Medina, Code Enforcement, City of Merced  
Jennifer Mockus, Central California Alliance for Health  
Heidi Pedrozo, Office of Congressman Cardoza  
Sandra Reeves, Turning Point  
Fred Risard, Episcopal Church  
Audrey Slocum, Merced County Mental Health  
Robyn Stiles, City of Merced  
Terry Tatum, CoC Executive Council

**MCAG STAFF PRESENT**

Jeanette Garcia, Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Deborah Bernal, California Lifeline

**1. Welcome**

Executive Council Chair, Su Briggs, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and began introductions. Ms. Briggs indicated that Agenda Item #4 would be heard prior to Item #2 so that Mr. Conway could present before departing for his next obligation.

**4. City of Merced – Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Homelessness**

Mike Conway, City of Merced, presented information regarding the formation of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Homelessness. The Committee was appointed to discuss eight questions pertaining to the encampment issue and provide recommendations to Merced City Council. One determination the Committee agreed upon was that the campground should be temporary. Votes were split, however, on when the no camping ordinance should be enforced. The Committee also agreed that a 10-year plan has become imperative.

## **2. Oral Communications**

Terry Tatum announced that the Merced Playhouse-UC Merced Theater is conducting a special event that will benefit the Merced Writers' Center "Street Voices" program, a literary project that seeks to raise awareness about homeless issues in Merced. For additional information, an article was published in the April 21, 2010 Merced Sun-Star.

Chair Su Briggs presented information regarding the Homeless Project and special projects that have been discussed, including: an art program, bicycle repair/restoration, a commissary, a newspaper, and a friendship park. The first project to be launched is bicycle repair/restoration. She introduced Matt Hirota, chairperson for the bicycle project.

Mr. Hirota introduced the two names currently being considered for this project - Rebycle or Wheel Solutions. The project's purpose is to help homeless people who do not have a bike, or who need repair to their existing bike, to learn how to perform their own repairs and then share skills as volunteers. Bikes in any condition can be donated. Contact Matt through recyclemerced.com for more information or to make donations.

## **3. Executive Council**

- Vice Chair – 2010 Planning Year – Vacancy

Chair Su Briggs announced that the Vice Chair position has not been filled to date. The Executive Council intends to fill this position at their May Meeting.

- Business Representative – Vacancy

Chair Su Briggs announced that the Executive Council position for a Business Representative is still vacant. General Collaborative members are invited to submit nominations to Jeanette Garcia at MCAG.

## **5. California Lifeline Telephone Program Update**

Deborah Bernal, California Lifeline Telephone Program, presented information about the Lifeline Program. According to Ms. Bernal, the State of California considers it a human right to have a basic landline. She talked about the importance of lower income people having a phone to ensure accessibility to employment, daycare, school, etc. Resource brochures are available to any service provider who requests them. A pilot cell phone project is currently going on in several communities. Terry Tatum suggested that a phone bank, like a post office box site, would be a great resource for the homeless.

Ms. Bernal inquired about 211 in Merced County. Discussion ensued regarding funding 211. Since the program currently does not exist in Merced County, she encouraged pursuit of this resource to assist the homeless.

## **6. Governing Board Update**

Jeanette Garcia provided an update regarding MCAG's Governing Board action to accept governance authority of the CoC. The intent of this change is to encourage regional support to the CoC. John Carlisle stated that while all communities attest to having some degree of a homelessness issue, they are not necessarily willing to commit funding to support CoC activities.

Ms. Garcia also indicated that each jurisdiction might choose to appoint a participant to the CoC Executive Council, which will impact the current structure of the Council.

## **7. Gaps Analysis**

Although Liz Freitas was unable to attend the meeting, she provided a starter worksheet for examining current resources and identifying community needs. The worksheet was distributed so General Collaborative members could begin brainstorming prior to the next Gaps Analysis discussion. This item was tabled until the next Regular Meeting.

## **8. Informational Items**

- **Training Opportunity Announcement**

Yolo County has extended a SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) training opportunity. Jeanette Garcia can provide contact information for those who are interested.

- **Grant Opportunities Announcements**

Flyers were provided at the resource table for the following:

- 1) Notice of Funding Availability - State Department of Housing & Community Development
- 2) Notice of Community Leadership Project grant providing Technical Assistance to support capacity building

## **9. Other Announcements – Presented by Chair Su Briggs**

1. HUD's 60-day public comment period regarding the proposed definitions of homelessness just opened.
2. Call to Action has released a petition for support to prevent the Governor from cutting program support for foster youth transitioning out of the system.
3. The General Collaborative will continue Regular Meetings in June and July 2010.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.