

## CONVENINGS FACILITATED AND STAFFED BY HOMEBASE

Welcome to this quarter's RSC meeting. We are so pleased you are able to join HomeBase in what we hope is an enriching and thought provoking day. In addition to the RSC, HomeBase convenes, facilitates and/or participates in several other regional meetings. Below is a brief description of those convenings and HomeBase's role.

### **REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON HOMLESSNESS AND HOUSING**

Who: The RSC is attended by people from the surrounding 11 Bay Area counties, as well as folks from Sacramento, Yuba, Sutter and Placer. The types of people in attendance is as varied as their geography: services and housing providers, continuum of care coordinators, government representatives, academics, and consumers are all invited to attend. More specifically, the RSC is attended, though not exclusively, by people from the following counties:

- San Francisco
- San Mateo
- Santa Clara
- San Jose
- Santa Cruz
- Monterey
- Alameda
- Napa
- Sonoma
- Marin
- Solano
- Sacramento
- Contra Costa
- Merced
- San Joaquin

What: This body of people meets to discuss, learn about, and share experiences on a variety of topics, all of which are tied to their work with the homeless population and advancing solutions to end homelessness. These topics include: federal and state legislation coming down the pike, how this legislation will effect their work, and how they may effect the legislation; current best practices in housing and services; funding opportunities from the local level to the federal level; regional efforts to end homelessness and how they may get involved; technical assistance available locally, regionally, and nationally; emerging research that informs the way the homeless

population and its subpopulations are served; government policy, both locally and nationally, that may affect the attendees' work or the lives of those they serve, and how they may act to change/improve that policy.

Frequency: The RSC meets on a quarterly basis, in the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) building in Oakland. Oakland was chosen as the optimum location to meet, as this was the most centrally located area. The ABAG building is an appropriate place to convene, as the bulk of the attendees hail from the Bay Area, and their government representatives remain in tune with the needs of the homeless population. These meetings are generally from 10AM to 2PM.

Staff Support: HomeBase staff designs the agenda, notifies the RSC community of the upcoming meeting, drafts and produces all RSC materials (except for those brought by a special guest), presents on a majority of the RSC agenda items, invites panel speakers and special presenters, conducts outreach to communities to encourage attendance, continually seeks feedback from RSC attendees on how to make the RSC meetings as informative, relevant, and helpful as possible.

Sample of Recent Topics: As mentioned above, the topics explored at the RSC meetings are quite varied, but an example of a few are:

- Learning through the experience of others how several communities have instituted specialized courts, i.e. Mental Health Courts and Homeless Courts, to assist people in clearing up their legal records.
- Changing homelessness at the state level; a conversation about the State Plan and emerging action.
- An examination of the McKinney-Vento Reauthorization Bill, the Reed Bill, and other legislation that may have a drastic effect on how your community is organized and operates in ending homelessness.
- A regional discussion on the emerging research, transformation of practices, and what is actually happening in communities in regards to serving homeless families.

*For more information on the RSC, please contact HomeBase Staff Lawyer, Danielle Crowell, via email at [Danielle@homebaseccc.org](mailto:Danielle@homebaseccc.org), or by phone at 415-788-7961 x301.*

## **BAY AREA COMMUNITIES HOMELESS INFORMATION COLLABORATIVE (BACHIC)**

**Who:** BACHIC meetings are attended by the continuum of care coordinators in the 11 surrounding Bay Area counties, including: San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Napa, Sonoma, Marin, Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano. Additionally, many CoC coordinators bring their HMIS tech support person. Also in attendance are representatives from Community Technology Alliance (CTA). CTA is the group that developed and is hosting the regional data warehouse.

**What:** BACHIC has been collaborating for several years now in an effort to design and develop the framework for a regional homeless data warehouse that would aggregate and deduplicate HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) data from each of the eleven participating counties to create a composite picture of the homeless population across the BACHIC region. Since HUD is requiring communities to gather a consistent set of data elements using consistent data collection protocols, a huge opportunity has been created to bring that information together into one regional database. This regional data warehouse is called Regional Homeless Information Network Opportunity (RHINO).

Within the past year, BACHIC has moved out of the development stage and into the implementation stage of RHINO. Counties have begun to export their data into the warehouse. Therefore, the next series of meetings will focus on lessons learned as the export/import process continues, as well as policies and procedures needed for the implementation and data analyses stages.

**Frequency:** The frequency of BACHIC meetings has fluctuated over the years, but generally the group meets every other month, for a four-hour block of time. Due to the immense amount of discussions that need to be had and decisions that need to be made before the close of the calendar year, BACHIC is now meeting every month, again for a four hour period,

**Staff Support:** HomeBase staff, in collaboration with CTA, designs and drafts the meeting agenda. Staff also emails out meeting reminders, agendas, and meeting logistics. HomeBase also facilitates the BACHIC meetings. Following the meetings, staff draft and disseminate meeting minutes. Finally, HomeBase designed and now maintains a Decision Log, logging all decisions the group has come to consensus on, so as to create a BACHIC history, as well as to assure that once an issue is decided, it is not revisited again unless there is good cause.

### **Sample of Recent Topics:**

- Lessons learned from Santa Clara County in preparing for CSV export—CTA went through a series of hiccups it encountered in exporting and importing Santa Clara's HMIS data. The group came to consensus on each unexpected issues on how to handle it in the future.

- Final CSV, RUID documents – the group finalized technical documents supporting the work necessary for RHINO.
- Discussion on reporting-out issues—what information gets made public? Who gets to approve it? Who has veto power?

*For more information on BACHIC, please contact HomeBase Staff Attorney Gina Allendorf, via email at [gina@homebaseccc.org](mailto:gina@homebaseccc.org), or by phone at 415-788-7961 x320.*

## **ABAG REGIONAL TASK FORCE TO END HOMELESSNESS**

Who: The Task Force is comprised of a group of elected officials and administrators from Marin, Oakland, San Francisco and Berkeley, and is led by Berkeley mayor, Mayor Bates. These folks are city council members, Board Supervisors, senior aids to mayors, and policy analysts. Further, the chair and co-chair of BACHIC are members of the Homeless Task Force, thereby assuring a link between BACHIC and ABAG.

Where: The members of the task force hail from counties around the Bay Area.

What: The ABAG Regional Task Force to End Homelessness was launched to broaden public-private partnerships to end homelessness by promoting best practices and coordinating planning efforts. The Task Force hopes to enhance coordination of county 10 year plans. It will meet to discuss the coordination of HMIS systems. It will serve as an advocacy group at the county, state, and federal level. Finally, the task force intends to share best practices and provide technical assistance from one jurisdiction to another.

Frequency: As needed.

Staff Support: HomeBase staff serves as a conduit of information between the Task Force and BACHIC. HomeBase attends the Task Force meetings on an as needed basis, but works to assure that the chair and co-chair of BACHIC are attending. By doing so, BACHIC is able to provide all necessary and requested information to the Task Force, and the Task Force is able to communicate directly with BACHIC. HomeBase staff maintains communication with the Mayor Bates' senior aide, staying abreast of all Task Force actions and requests. Further, when the Task Force requests any sort of written document from BACHIC, such as a letter of intent, a request for funding, etc, HomeBase staff drafts said documents.

Sample of Recent Topics: State legislation; regional funding.

*For more information on the ABAG Task Force, please contact HomeBase Staff Attorney Gina Allendorf, via email at [gina@homebaseccc.org](mailto:gina@homebaseccc.org), or by phone at 415-788-7961 x320.*

## **NORTHERN/CENTRAL VALLEY HOMELESS ROUNDTABLE**

**Who:** The Roundtable is composed of representatives from over 20 counties throughout Northern California and the Central Valley, from as far north as Shasta County and as far south as Kern County, who provide homeless services in their communities. These people are as varied as their geography: there are services and housing providers, continuum of care coordinators, government representatives, academics, and consumers. The Roundtable is generally attended by people from the following counties:

- Sacramento
- San Joaquin
- Merced
- Modesto
- Fresno
- Kern
- Stanislaus
- Madera
- Kings
- Tulare
- Mariposa
- Tuolumne
- Calaveras
- Amador
- El Dorado
- Placer
- Yuba
- Sutter
- Butte
- Tehama
- Glenn
- Colusa
- Shasta

**What:** The Roundtable's goal is to create regular opportunities for continuum of care participants and providers of homeless services to foster an exchange of information and to build community between continuum communities.

**Frequency:** The Roundtable meets in a different county every meeting, and on a quarterly basis. The meetings are full day events.

**Staff Support:** HomeBase staff facilitate the planning committee for each meeting, providing expertise in the areas needed. HomeBase helps guide committee members in putting together a panel, or inviting appropriate community advocates/experts. Staff is instrumental in designing the agenda and planning the flow of the meetings. Staff also prepares most of the material presented at the Roundtable.

### **Sample of Recent Topics:**

- Housing First Models: examples of how to provide immediate permanent supportive housing to homeless individuals and families.
- Discharge Planning to Prevent Homelessness: Dr. Mayberg from the California Department of Mental Health presented on this topic, with the focus being on the mental health system.
- Methodology continua utilized to count sheltered and unsheltered homeless people, the results of the counts, and how to engage the law enforcement.
- Various housing models and how they might be applied in continua, with a focus on Housing First, Safe Havens and the Affordable Housing Initiative.

*For more information on the Northern and Central Valley Roundtable, please contact HomeBase Staff Lawyer, Bridget Kurtt DeJong, via email at [Bridget@homebaseccc.org](mailto:Bridget@homebaseccc.org), or by phone at 415-788-7961 x314.*



## HOMELESS YOUTH ROUNDTABLE

Who: In October 2003, HomeBase prepared and convened a highly successful conference (“All the Way Home: Creating Partnerships to House Emancipated Foster and Homeless Youth”) addressing the needs and gaps in both housing and services for homeless foster youth. Furthering the 2003 conference success, the All the Way Home convening partners, with the HEY Collaborative (United Way of the Bay Area) began holding quarterly meetings of All the Way Home conference attendees who have homeless youth housing projects in the pipeline. Since the Youth Roundtable first began meeting, attendees have expanded to include homeless youth housing and service providers throughout the greater Bay Area region. People attending the Youth Roundtable hail from the following counties:

- San Francisco
- San Mateo
- Santa Clara
- San Jose
- Santa Cruz
- Alameda
- Marin
- Contra Costa
- Butte
- Solano
- Yolo
- Sacramento
- Mendocino
- Tulare

What: The meetings are meant to be an opportunity to discuss challenges and successes, as well as hear about potential funding sources and favorable legislation. At most quarterly meetings, approximately 20 individuals attend and discuss their projects’ status and share information with one another about the development process.

Frequency: The Youth Roundtable meets on a quarterly basis, in a different location each time. HomeBase and its partners work to assure that each meeting is held at a different homeless youth housing project, so that the participants can learn on site how other projects operate.

Staff Support: HomeBase staff assists in designing and drafting the agenda, notifies participants of the next Roundtable, and produces much of the documentation presented at these meetings. Staff, with its convening partners, facilitates the meeting as well.

Sample of Recent Topics:

- Peer-to-Peer Support: projects which have been opened for more than a year report on the experience of the first year – lessons learned, what they’d do the same, what they’d do differently, and any heads-up for the folks about to open or who have a project in the pipeline.
- An update on funding opportunities and local and federal legislation
- Developer Panel: A panel presentation by developers on lessons learned and essential things to know when planning a housing project.

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