

WALNUT CREEK HOMELESS TASK FORCE (WCHTF)

Meeting Minutes: January 17, 2024

Topics Discussed:

- 1) Prior to the regular meeting was a public discussion of the Winter Shelter. This service is conducted by Trinity Center. Several participants in the program attended and provided input on the shelter program.
- 2) Guest Speaker Irene Farnsworth (She/Her). Irene represents the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) Anti Displacement Program. One goal of BAHFA is to help people stay safely and stably housed by preventing exploitative behavior that would result in displacement (like unjust evictions). Strong tenant protections help prevent homelessness.
- 3) The Anti-Displacement and Homelessness Prevention pilots will focus on ways to improve policies and programs that improve:
 - i. Tenant protection
 - ii. Homelessness prevention

BAHFA is in the research and planning process to develop these pilot projects.

- 4) Data analysis regarding the status of homelessness in Walnut Creek. Marco provided an update showing trends in homeless support activities. Support activities continue to rise, with an increase of 50% from the beginning of 2023.

Here is a link to the report:

[News & Reports - WALNUT CREEK HOMELESS TASK FORCE
\(wchomelesstaskforce.org\)](https://www.wchomelesstaskforce.org/news-reports)

Many thanks to Trinity, CORE, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa and our HOP team for providing this data.

- 5) WCHTF goals and priorities. Donna provided the list of our goals and priorities for the year. Here is the link:

We continue to welcome you input and feedback regarding the goals and priorities.

- 6) Collaboration / success story. Donna shared a very positive experience where our support services assisted a homeless individual near Palos Verdes.
- 7) Stephanie Brynen provided an update on the Walnut Creek Housing & Economic Development program.
- 8) Leslie Gleason provided an update on activities at Trinity Center. Trinity remains very active in support services. Leslie reminded everyone to mark calendars for the May 9th 600 PM event at the Ruth Bancroft Gardens.
- 9) We received updates from the HOP Team, County (Jaime), and Joleen Lafayette of Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa.
 - HOP Team Updates – Gary Silva
 - County Update – Jamie Jenett
 - Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa– Janette Kennedy/Joleen Lafayette
- 10) Announcements:
 - a. We are currently developing our schedule for 2024, all input welcome.
 - b. We need a new website coordinator. Please volunteer or pass along a referral if you know of an individual who might help us.
 - c. Next meeting is March 20, 2024.