

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR BOLINAS LAGOON ADVISORY  
COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 28, 2023**

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**BOLINAS LAGOON ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Regular Public Meeting**

**April 28, 2023, 11:00 a.m.**

Stinson Beach Community Center, 32 Belvedere Ave, Stinson Beach, CA 94970

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ralph Camiccia (Bolinás)  
Rudi Ferris (Bolinás Rod and Boat Club)  
Gwen Heistand (Audubon Canyon Ranch)  
Jeff Loomans (Stinson Beach)  
Mischon Martin (Marin County Parks/Open Space District)  
Mia Monroe (Golden Gate National Recreation Area)  
Joe Mueller (College of Marin)  
Morey Nielsen (Seadrift)  
Dave Press (Point Reyes National Seashore)  
Ed Ueber (At-Large)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Maria Brown (Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary)  
Lynne Stenzel (Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Samantha Haimovitch, Superintendent  
Nova Hairston, Supervising Park Ranger

**1. Call to order**

**The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.**

**2. Public Comment**

Open time for public expression, up to three minutes per speaker, on items not on the Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council Agenda. (While members of the public are welcome to address the Council, under the Brown Act advisory council members may not discuss, deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.)

COMMENTS: Jennie Pfeiffer stated that she appreciated the advance notice of the meeting; however, she was upset about the blue cones preventing parking in front of the venue when she arrived to attend the meeting.

A resident from Bolinas remarked upon another landside and branches.

Wendy Botwin praised to the Marine Mammal Center for their support and care of the local wildlife when she called to report a wounded animal.

**3. Meeting Minutes from October 28, 2022 to be Submitted for Approval**

Minutes accepted as submitted with minor typographical changes from Councilmember Heistand.

M/S UEBER/CAMICCIA

AYES 10

NAYS 0

ABSTAIN 0

ABSENT 2

**4. Introduction of new BLAC members (Informational Item)**

Morey Nelsen, representing Seadrift to replace Kiren Niderberger, and Mia Monroe, representing GGNRA to replace Alison Forrestel, introduced themselves to the council and community.

**5. Election of Officers (Action Item)**

A new Chair was required to complete the current term through the end of 2023 vacated by Councilmember Kiren Niederberger upon her leaving the Council. It was proposed that Vice Chair Jeff Loomans take the Chair position and Councilmember Ralph Camiccia was nominated to fill the remainder of the Vice Chair position.

M/S UEBER/NIELSEN

AYES 10

NAYS 0

ABSTAIN 0

ABSENT 2

**6. Unhoused Community Task Force work countywide (Informational Item)**

Gary Naja-Riese, Whole Person Care/Homelessness Division Director for Marin County Health and Human Services made a presentation to the Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council outlining the Unhoused Community Task Force work countywide, with an emphasis of current work in West Marin. HHS Director Benita McLarin and Lt. Heather Rock of the Marin County Sheriff's Office Field Services Bureau were also on hand to respond to questions from the community.

## **7. Agency Reports (Information Item)**

MARIN COUNTY PARKS: Councilmember Martin gave an update on the Eucalyptus removals – 5 were removed in January of 2023. She also gave an update on the comment period ending for the Bolinas Wye project, which is anticipated to see a great deal of progress in the year ahead as permits are moving forward and funding has been secured.

POINT REYES NAT'L SEASHORE: Nothing to report.

GREATER FARALLONES NAT'L MARINE SANCTUARY: Dr. Wendy Kordesch gave an update on the South End project and the Effects of Sea Level Rise project on behalf of GFNMS.

NAT'L PARK SERVICE/GOLDEN GATE NAT'L RECREATION AREA: Nothing to report.

## **8. Council Member Comments (Information Item)**

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH: Councilmember Heistand announced that she will be stepping down from the BLAC as she is leaving her position at ACR shortly.

AT-LARGE: Councilmember Ueber proposed that Agency representatives have seconds or stand-in alternates that can attend in a representative's absence and vote on items if necessary. Staff will need to see if this is within the Council by-laws.

STINSON: Chair Loomans wanted to thank outgoing members Niederberger and Heistand for their long service on the BLAC.

BOLINAS: Nothing to report

ROD AND BOAT CLUB: Councilmember Ferris mentioned that the schools of various fish are more prevalent this year than in previous years, perhaps due to changing climate conditions.

POINT BLUE: No report from PRBO as Councilmember Stenzel was absent.

COLLEGE OF MARIN MARINE LAB: Councilmember Mueller announced that there would be a shovel ceremony/groundbreaking for the College of Marin Lab on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Also mentioned that there is a large pile of sediment across from Pine Gulch Creek that needs to be moved.

## **9. Next Regular Meeting Date (Action Item)**

Approved Friday August 4, 2023 for the next Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council regular meeting, which will be a field trip.

M/S PRESS/UEBER

AYES 10

NAYS 0

ABSTAIN 0

ABSENT 2

**Adjourn**

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.**

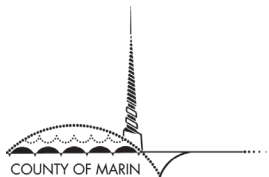
# Homelessness in Marin

BOLINAS LAGOON ADVISORY COUNCIL

April 28, 2023



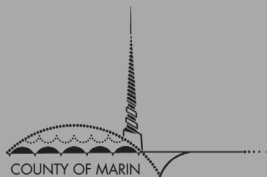
Photo Credit: Jeff Wong



Health and Human Services  
20 North San Pedro Road, Ste 2028  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415 473 3696 T / 415 473 3344 F  
[marinhhs.org](http://marinhhs.org)

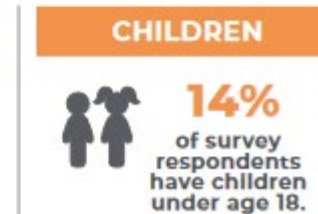
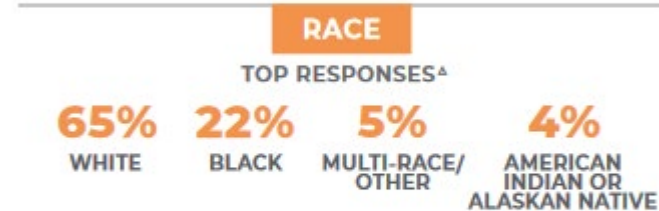
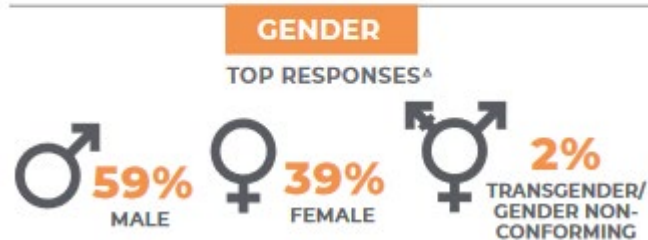
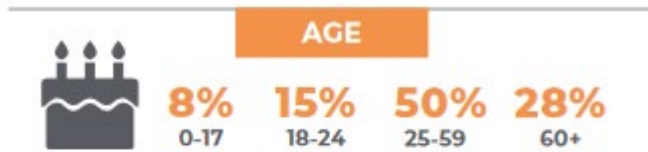


# Who is Homeless in Marin?



# Who is Homeless in Marin?

## DEMOGRAPHICS



# Who is Homeless in Marin?

## UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS BY REGION

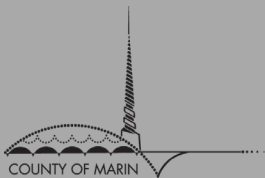
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- North Marin: 234
- Central Marin: 320
- Southern Marin: 239
- West Marin: 37\*

\* Likely undercount exacerbated by the nature of rural homelessness; true count estimated to be slightly higher.



# Focus on Priority Population: Chronic Homelessness



# Focusing on Chronic Homelessness

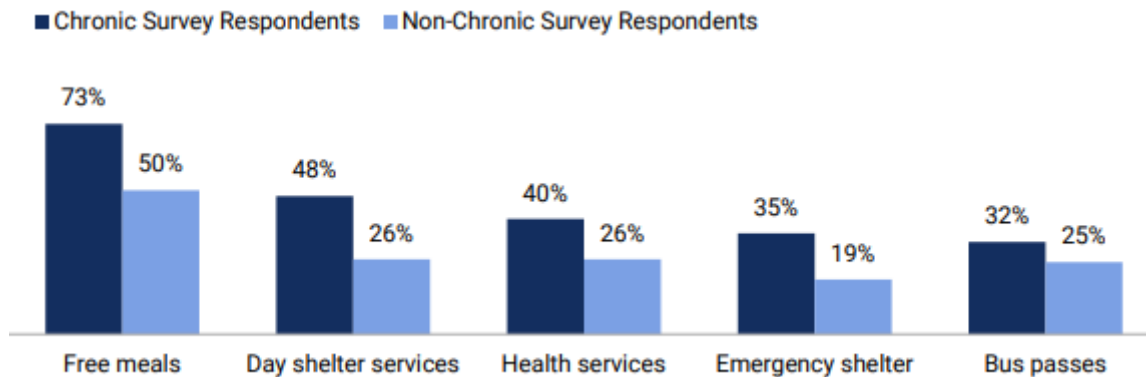
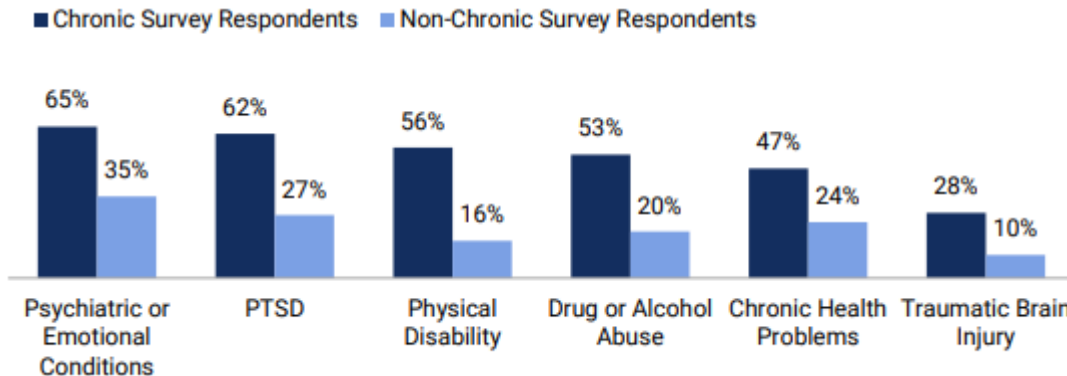
## WHY FOCUS ON CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS?

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- 70-80% of people who become homeless self-resolve within two weeks
- Serve the most vulnerable
  - People who are homeless have a life expectancy 25 years less than their housed peers
- Cost effective

# Focusing on Chronic Homelessness

## WHO IS CHRONICALLY HOMELESS IN MARIN?



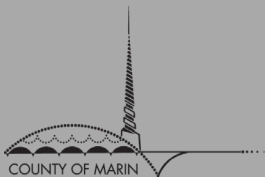
# Focusing on Chronic Homelessness

## WHO IS CHRONICALLY HOMELESS IN MARIN?

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- Majority white, but disproportionately BIPOC
  - 66% White, 20% Black, 4% multi-racial, 1% Asian, 1% API, 1% Native
  - 80% non-Hispanic/non-Latina/o/x/e, 14% Hispanic/Latina/o/x/e
- 60% male, 40% female
- 4% youth 18-24; 28% 25-40; 32% 41-55; 30% 56-70; 5% over 70
- 73% were living in Marin when they became homeless

But what about  
people who don't  
want housing?



# “People just want to be homeless!”

WHY WOULD SOMEONE REJECT HOUSING OR SHELTER?

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- Safety
- Crowding / doesn't want roommates
- Not able to bring pet
- Previous bad experience with the provider / with housing
- Housing is in the wrong area / don't like available housing
- See accepting help as weakness

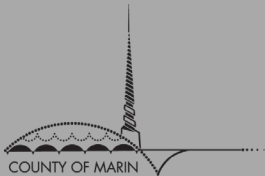
# “People just want to be homeless!”

WHY WOULD SOMEONE REJECT HOUSING OR SHELTER?

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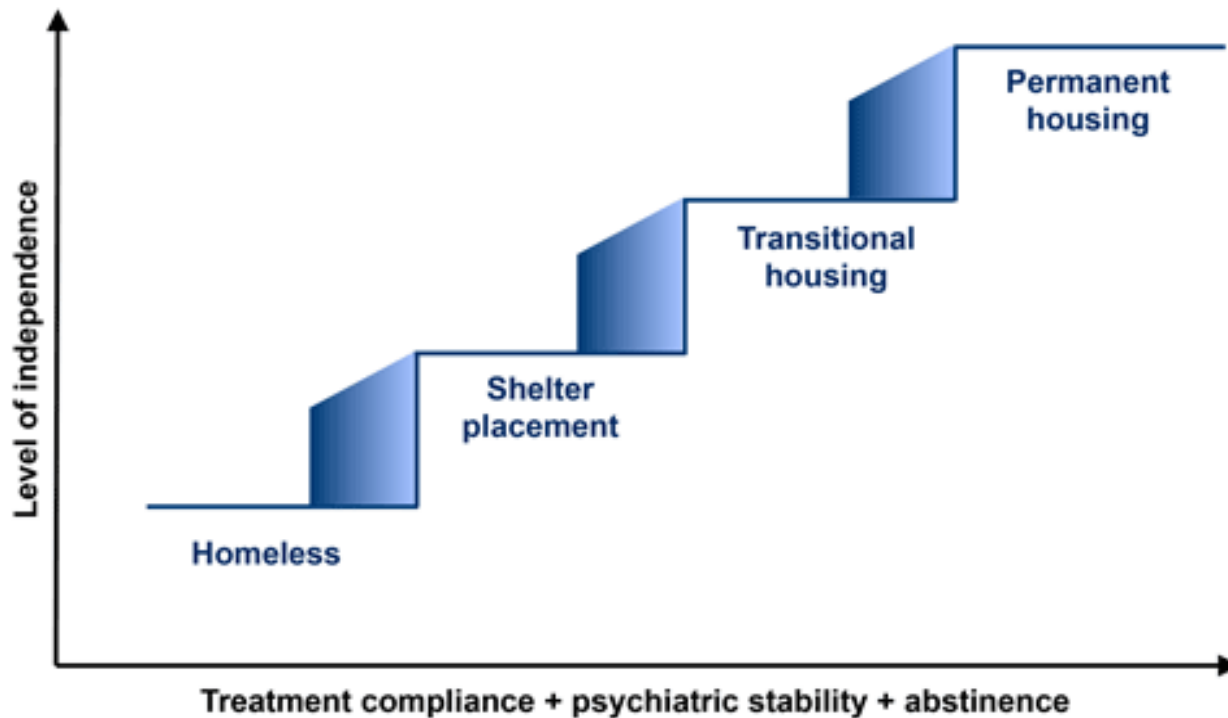
You can't just put  
chronically homeless  
people in a house and  
expect them to  
succeed!





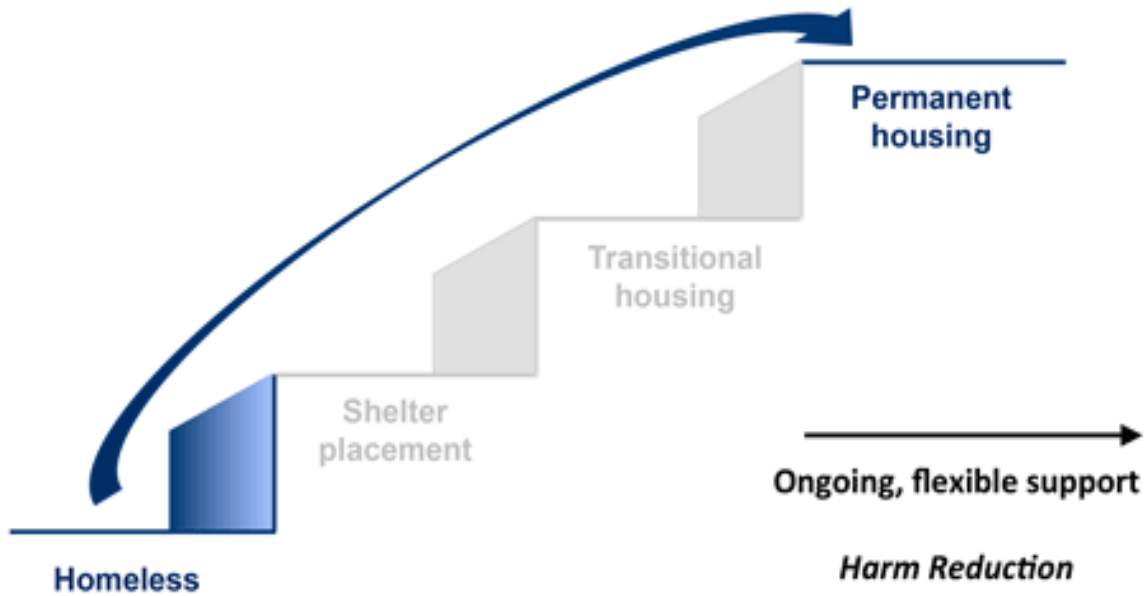
# Housing First

## Traditional system approach

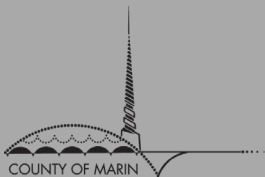


# Housing First

## Housing First approach



So what are the County  
and our partners doing  
about homelessness?



# What are we doing?

## SERVICES

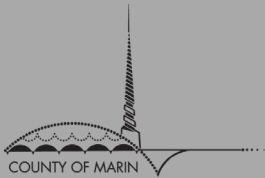
- County-wide outreach
- Approx 150 emergency shelter beds
- 649 units of permanent supportive housing, nearly double since 2016
- Coordinated Entry system
- Highly coordinated system of care allowing us to create personalized housing plans

# What are we doing?

## HOUSING STATS

- 606 people placed in Permanent Supportive Housing since October 2017
- 94% of people are still housed
- 28% decrease in chronic homelessness between 2017 and 2019

# Impact of COVID



# COVID

## EFFECTS

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- Changes to shelter
  - Fewer beds in congregate shelters
- Increase in Encampments
  - Meeting weekly for by-name list case conferencing about biggest encampments
  - Have found that 90% of the people living in encampments were homeless in Marin before COVID; encampments do not represent an increase in homelessness
- Increases in homelessness
  - Anecdotally, providers saw a large increase in people asking for assistance
  - Vehicle count showed 93% increase in people living in vehicles—vehicles are the most likely place people who are newly homeless will stay

# COVID

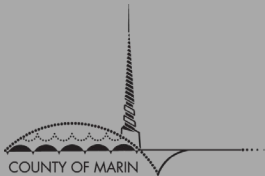
## RESPONSES & RESOURCES

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- Project Roomkey
  - Hotel rooms for the people most vulnerable to COVID
- Rental assistance
- New outreach & rapid rehousing
- New housing vouchers and case management



# West Marin Challenges and Responses



# West Marin Challenges and Responses

## CHALLENGES

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- Large geographic area
  - More difficult to find people
  - More time-intensive to provide outreach
- Limited stock of housing affordable to people with very low incomes
- Most providers providing specialized services located along the 101 corridor

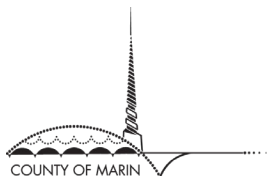
# West Marin Challenges and Responses

## RESPONSES

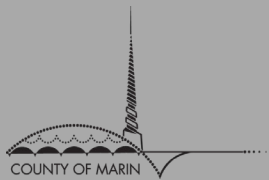
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- In the early phases of improving integration of West Marin services with general homelessness system of care
- Increased investment in outreach in underserved areas, including West Marin
- Launch of regular West Marin case conferencing to identify and resolve housing barriers



# How to help



# How to Help

- 
- Give
  - Get involved
  - Volunteer
  - Share Your Skills
  - Hire
  - House
  - Think About a Career in Helping Others

# Questions?

