



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

2017 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

(916) 444-8641

(916) 444-2954 fax

Website: www.ccleague.org

AFFORDABILITY, FOOD & HOUSING ACCESS TASKFORCE

Real Solutions to Real Challenges

HYBRID RETREAT

Friday, September 3, 2021

10:00AM – 3:00PM

MEETING SUMMARY

In Attendance: Dorothy Battenfeld, Byron Clift Breland, Tom Burke, Rebekah Cearley, Eddy Conroy (in place of Paula Umaña), Keith Curry, Colleen Ganley, Martha Garcia, Tammeil Gilkerson (Co-Chair), Adrienne Grey, John Hernandez, Andra Hoffman, Nick Jiles, Pam Luster, Julia Morrison, Diana Rodriguez, Kevin Walthers (Co-Chair), Matt Wetstein. League Staff: Larry Galizio, Lisa Mealoy, Andrew Martinez, Ryan McElhinney, Jonathan Lightman, Sadie Brown.

1. SCHEDULE W/ NOTES

a. 10:00AM Welcome, Agenda Review & Introduction (Co-Chairs)

1. The meeting commenced at 10:00AM with committee member introductions

b. 10:30AM Legislative & Advocacy Efforts Update (Lisa, Andrew, Ryan)

1. Feasibility Studies RFP (Lisa)

- a. The RFP process has been completed. The RFP team met to talk about the proposals and decided that two firms (The Scion Group and Brailsford and Dunlavey) are going to be eligible under the program and provide campuses with resources and support on housing affordability issues.

2. Basic Needs Legislation & Chart (Andrew, Ryan)

- a. Andrew and Ryan referenced the Legislative Bill Matrix provided to the committee ahead of the retreat. The Matrix is a summarization of past bills that impacted affordability issues including housing and food insecurities. Notes from their presentation are below.

- b. Implementation of bills past in the last couple of years:

- i. AB 943 (Chiu) Emergency Grants

1. Permits funding via Student Equity and Achievement Program to be utilized for emergency financial aid grants
2. Funds intended to support students experiencing a financial agency

- ii. AB 2884 (Berman) Lottery Dollars

1. Changed definition of allowable expenses for lottery

- funds to be directed to basic needs (flexibility with funds)
 - 2. Allowable funding is for direct housing or food assistance
- iii. AB 1995 (Williams) Showers
 - 1. Requires colleges to open up showers for homeless students for a specified period of time during the week
 - 2. League has provided model policy and procedure for how to permit students to safely use facilities
- iv. SB 174 (De Leon) Cal Grant B Supplement
 - 1. Provides tax incentives for individuals to donate money in order to increase the Cal Grant B access award
 - 2. Roughly \$1.50 per student in the previous budget year
- v. SB 1227 (Skinner) Density Bonuses
 - 1. Provides incentives for developers of housing projects to set aside units for affordable student housing
 - 2. No new community college student housing built under law
- vi. AB 612 (Weber) Restaurant Meals MOU
 - 1. Permits the Chancellor's Office and CDSS to enter into a statewide MOU program allowing colleges to join the restaurant meals program
- vii. AB 1747 (Weber) Restaurant Meals
 - 1. Requires public colleges to apply to participate in the restaurant meals program if their counties offer the opportunity
- viii. Basic Needs Centers
 - 1. Budget provided \$30 million statewide for colleges to create basic needs centers

c. Trends:

i. Financial Aid

- 1. Multiple attempts to increase Cal Grant funding
- 2. Incremental changes via increase in access award level or competitive grants
- 3. Bills tend to die in appropriations, can lead to small budget increases
- 4. New focus on funding total cost of attendance
- 5. Inequities within Cal Grant program continue

ii. Food Insecurity

1. Progress on making it easier for colleges to provide access to CalFresh and other programs
 2. Focus is on better connecting student to existing programs:
 - a. CalFresh via orientation or financial aid applications
 - b. Colleges connecting with CDSS
 3. Two areas of resistance to Cal Grant reforms: 1) it will be expensive and 2) entrenched interests within the UC and CSU system in which the Cal Grant and current system disproportionately benefits them
- iii. Housing Insecurity
1. Part of attempts to alleviate larger housing crisis in California
 2. Density bonuses
 3. Funding for student housing and feasibility studies
 - a. \$500 million allocated for housing 2021-2022
 - b. \$5.5 billion available over the next two budget cycles
 - c. Feasibility studies a priority for community colleges as they are not “shovel ready” for housing projects like UCs and CSUs
 - d. The goal of CCCs is housing affordability versus the CSU/UC goal which is increasing housing capacity to increase enrollment; it will be important for CCC leaders to document specific questions and goals community colleges have in regards to student housing before talking to legislators
 4. Mandates related to camping in parking lots and showers
- iv. Financial Aid Processing
1. Stated dislike by policy makers on having to “prove you are poor”
 2. Relatively low take rates for both Pell and Cal Grants
 3. Potential warning, fraud:
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-09-01/california-college-financial-aid-scam-fake-students>

c. 11:00AM Chancellor’s Office Update (Colleen, CCCCCO)

1. Colleen provided an update on the Hunger Free Campus Survey as well as

other work CCCCCO has been doing in relation to basic needs. Notes from her presentation are below.

2. Overview of Hunger Free Campus Survey
 - a. CalFresh enrollment support services
 - b. Establish or expand campus food pantry
 - i. 2017-18 - \$2.5 million
 - ii. 2018-19 - \$10 million
 - iii. 2019-20 - \$3.9 million
 - iv. 2020-21 - \$3.1 million (specifically for CalFresh Outreach services/support)
 - c. Data Collection 2019-2020 (Pre-COVID-19 Data)
 - i. **114** CCCs report hosting food pantry or regular food distribution
 - ii. **1,525** CCC faculty and staff providing support to students enrolling in CalFresh
 - iii. **15,000** students supported with CalFresh enrollment services
 - iv. **50** CCCs report having Basic Needs Centers
 - d. Data Collection 2019-2020 (COVID-19 Data)
 - i. **94** CCCs report hosting food pantry or regular food distribution, however have adjusted due to the pandemic (e.g. Drive-Thru modality, grocery e-cards, etc.)
 - ii. **1,066** CCC faculty and staff providing support to students enrolling in CalFresh
 - iii. **12,111** students supported with CalFresh enrollment services
 - iv. **52** CCCs report having Basic Needs Centers (most have shifted to operating remotely or implemented social distancing protocols)
 - e. All data is reported to the legislator; CCCCCO has submitted one Hunger Free Campus report and the second is making its way through the executive review process
3. \$3.1 million for CalFresh Outreach College Efforts
 - a. The Immediate Action Budget Package (distributed in March) also includes \$3.1 million to support campus efforts to increase student applications in the CalFresh program
 - b. Funds may be used to create outreach materials, host CalFresh sign-up events, support equipment needs, and support application assistance, including hiring staff and student workers to assist students applying for CalFresh and understanding how to use their CalFresh benefits
 - c. Report on use of funds coming soon to CSSOs and Hunger Free Campus Reps. Report due **November 15th**
4. COVID-19 CalFresh Outreach Social Media Toolkit
 - a. Created by CCCCCO in partnership with the Foundation to be used to

promote CalResh across student body

5. CalFresh Exemption & Career and Technical Education
 - a. The Chancellor's Office in partnership with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has identified/approved a CalFresh exemption for all students enrolled in Career and Technical Education programs
 - b. Also exploring adult education CalFresh exemption
 - c. More information to come on newly identified CalFresh exemptions for CCC students
 - d. Tammeil suggested that the above topic would be helpful to discuss at a CCLC CEO webinar when the All County Letter (ACL) discussing the CalFresh policy change is released
 - e. AB 396 and SB 609 bills are pending and are designed to require campuses to apply for being an exempting program
 - i. San Joaquin Delta College has a list of 25 programs that have been approved and an exempting program
6. Training Opportunities: CalFresh Outreach
 - a. Introduction: CalFresh 101
 - i. **Date:** October 12, 2021
 - ii. **Time:** 9:30AM - 11:00AM
 - iii. **Zoom:** link coming soon
 - iv. Partnering with Center for Healthy Communities from Chico State on the above presentation
 - v. Previously trained over 600 CCC faculty and staff on CalFresh application process and student eligibility and will host more trainings as demand increases
7. Training Opportunities: AB 801 (Homeless Liaisons Primer)
 - a. Updated guidelines for AB 801/806 Homeless Youth Liaisons:
 - i. Hosting webinar to reintroduce Primer
 - ii. Developing learning modules in the Vision Resource Center
 - iii. Zoom information coming soon
8. 2021-22 Budget Appropriations
 - a. \$30 million ongoing for Basic Needs Centers and Basic Need Coordinators
 - b. \$100 million one-time for Food and Housing Supports for students
 - i. Colleen noted that she does not believe these funds will be intended for building
 - c. \$30 million ongoing for Mental Health Services
 - d. CCCCCO is currently developing a funding formula for each of the above funding streams; guidance on usage will be forthcoming in addition to professional development
 - e. Goal: get the above funds out as soon as possible (possibly within the next 8-12 weeks)

9. CalSAWS/BenefitsCal Web Portal

- a. BenefitsCal is a new website that will replace the three existing web portals (C4Yourself, YourBenefitsNow and CalWINN) to provide one unified experience for all Californians to apply for multiple benefits including:
 - i. CalFresh
 - ii. CalWORKs
 - iii. Medi-Cal
 - iv. County Medical Services Program Disaster CalFresh
 - v. General Assistance and General Relief

10. Future Activities in Support of Basic Needs

- a. CO has a much broader system-wide goal of integrating basic need services with financial aid efforts, the goal of this integration is to approach services in a more holistic manner - strategic planning sessions with Jobs for the Future,
- b. CO team will be developing a strategic framework to support best practices in the provision of mental health and housing services,
- c. Basic Needs tool kit in progress

d. 11:40AM #RealCollegeCalifornia Update & Review (Eddy)

1. Eddy Conroy (in place of Paula Umaña) provided an update on The Hope Center and their continued work to grow the #RealCollegeCalifornia coalition. A summary of his presentation is below.
2. Review Year 2 Accomplishments (2020-2021)
 - a. 38 CCCs joined the #RealCollegeCalifornia coalition
3. Year 3 Overview & Goals (2021-2022)
 - a. 14 CCCs renewed/joined the coalition at the time of the retreat
4. Coalition Recruitment Efforts & Help Needed
 - a. Eddy requested that CEOs on the committee reach out to their peers to help grow the membership and tap into colleges who were not previously a part of the coalition
5. Spring 2022 Curriculum
 - a. Eddy shared The Hope Center's curriculum for the upcoming year as well as an infographic with committee members (linked below under "Resources")

e. 12:10PM Lunch Break

f. 1:00PM Review 2020-2021 Taskforce Accomplishments & Pending Tasks

1. Committee members listed the below items as accomplishments for the 2020-2021 year:
 - a. The Housing Affordability and Transportation Issues briefs

- i. Publications and presentations at CEO/Trustee webinars
 - b. Growth of the #RealCollegeCalifornia coalition
 - c. Successful first virtual Basic Needs Summit with over 500+ attendees and keynote speaker Soledad O'Brien
 - d. Basic Needs advocacy by CEOs and League staff
 - i. **Action Item:** Keith to update the list of accomplishments to include the above items
2. Committee members listed the below items as 2020-2021 goals that have yet to be accomplished:
- a. Food Insecurity brief to be completed, published, and distributed
 - i. **Action Item:** Tom Burke to work in Larry and Tammeil's comments into the brief, update, and bring back to the committee
 - b. Reach wider CEO and Trustee audience for basic needs briefs via webinars, events, and other avenues of engagement
 - c. Elevate student's basic needs stories and services available (campaign)
 - i. Newsletters, social media platforms, webinars, etc.
 - d. Include basic needs projects from CC campuses
 - 1. Example: Imperial Valley College's tiny house project

g. 1:20PM Review of CEO Survey Feedback

- 1. Who answered the survey?
 - a. In total, 41 respondents answered the survey, including 1 Chancellor, 34 Superintendent/President or Presidents, and 6 "other" positions. The response rate among the 116 colleges was 34%.
 - i. Several other surveys were sent to CEOs at this time which may have contributed to the low response rate
- 2. Survey respondents listed the below basic needs items as areas that need support by the taskforce:
 - a. Legal support to address liability issues with housing
 - b. Funding
 - c. Research and data collection
 - d. Advocacy and policy recommendations
 - e. Programmatic support and training
 - f. Feasibility studies
 - g. CalFresh (simplification of application process)
 - h. Technology and broadband issues (particularly with rural colleges)
 - i. Etc.
- 3. **Action Item:** Co-chairs to share list of schools interested in pursuing housing projects to Nick Jiles so that he can reach out to them with resources
- 4. **Action Item:** Colleen to share survey results with the Chancellor's Office in

order to offer workshops/programs that address the needs and support needed from campuses (at the executive and practitioner levels)

5. The committee discussed challenges colleges across the system are experiencing in terms of data collection. Colleen offered to share this concern with executives at the Chancellor's Office to further discuss a potential need to create a systematic approach in data collection on housing and food insecurities as well as resources available to students

h. 1:40PM Goal Setting 2021-2022 Discussion

1. Affordable Housing
 - a. Committee members discussed the need to clarify DSA standards versus regular housing standards as well as the need to come up with creative solutions to navigate DSA as opposed to asking for exemption
 - b. Deep-dive presentation on the Housing Affordability brief at League webinars
 - c. Collect data on college's partnerships with organizations supporting affordable housing
2. Food Insecurity
 - a. Publish and distribute the brief; present at League events/webinars
3. Meet w/ the Chancellor's Office
 - a. Committee members discussed setting up a meeting with Daisy Gonzales and the Board of Governors on how to align their research with the needs of colleges and districts
4. #RealCollegeCalifornia Coalition
 - a. Grow the membership
 - i. Automatically invoice 2020-2021 members for their renewal
 - ii. Coalition co-chairs (Diana Rodriguez and Byron Clift Breland) to send out personal appeal to CEO colleagues who are not members
 - iii. Boost coverage on social media
 - iv. The Hope Center to add new members to listserv to receive e-communications and other resources
 - v. Offer and publicize incentives to join including discounted or free Basic Needs Summit registration fee for members
 - vi. Utilize Chancellor's Office basic needs directory/listserv for promotion
5. Basic Needs Summit
 - a. Potentially move conference date from December to February in order to create a Basic Needs advocacy week
 - i. Pick date that does not conflict with the Legislative Conference, CEO Symposium, CHEBNA workshop, and others

- ii. Determine whether the conference will be in-person or virtual
 - 1. Consider vaccine requirements/precedent for in-person conference
 - b. Tammeil, Pam, Matt, Martha, JoAnna, and Laura Murrell to meet and discuss conference planning
 - 6. Data collection
 - 7. Professional development in collaboration with The Hope Center
 - 8. Advocacy
 - 9. Affordability Track at Legislative Conference
 - a. The committee requested that the League's GR team schedule legislative briefings (including students and the Student Senate) with Capital folks
 - 10. Uplifting CalFresh concerns
- i. **2:40PM** Next Steps
 - a. 2021-2022 Meeting Schedule
 - i. The committee decided to keep meetings on Fridays at 7:30am
 - ii. Sadie to work with co-chairs on dates and will send out calendar invites to the committee
 - iii. **Action Item:** Kevin and Matt to invite their state architect contact to next meeting
 - b. Taskforce Co-chairs
 - i. The committee decided that the taskforce co-chairs will serve a two-year term
 - 1. Keith and Pam (2018-2020)
 - 2. Kevin and Tammeil (2020-2022)
 - c. #RealCollegeCalifornia Coalition Co-chairs
 - i. The committee decided that Diana and Byron will continue to serve as the coalition co-chairs for the 2021-2022 year
 - d. Basic Needs Summit Planning Committee Co-chairs
 - i. The committee includes: Tammeil, Pam, Matt, Sadie (Martha and JoAnna to provide input based on the 2020 conference)
 - e. Housing and Transportation Briefs
 - i. Adrienne and the League to determine available dates at the CEO and Trustee webinars to present on the affordability briefs
 - 1. Schedule update:
 - a. Housing Presentation: October 28 (Trustees)
 - b. Transportation Presentation: November 4 (Trustees) and November 9 (CEOs)

2. RESOURCES

- a. [Taskforce Webpage & Previous Meeting Summaries](#)
- b. [Transportation Report](#)
- c. [Housing Affordability Report](#)
- d. [Food Insecurities Report \(Draft\)](#)
- e. [CEO Survey Results](#)
- f. [Basic Needs Legislation Chart](#) (listed under *Taskforce Materials*)
- g. <https://jbay.org/resources/sap-policy-reco/>
- h. <https://jbay.org/resources/overlooked-obstacle/>
- i. Materials from The Hope Center:
 - i. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JOHdr36tRw8lc6lR7L5ojrJTU6oCejlC?usp=sharing>

<https://www.ccleague.org/resources/focus-areas/affordability-taskforce>