



## COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

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### **Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce**

*Real Solutions to Real Challenges*

**Friday, June 18, 2021**

**7:30AM – 9:00AM**

#### **Agenda**

- 1. In Attendance:** Tom Burke, Rebekah Cearly, Keith Curry, Colleen Ganley, Martha Garcia, Tammeil Gilkerson, Adrienne Grey, John Hernandez, Andra Hoffman, Nick Jiles, Pam Luster, Julia Morrison, Diana Rodriguez, Erik Skinner, Paula Umana. League Staff: Larry Galizio, Lisa Mealoy, Andrew Martinez, Ryan McElhinney, Sadie Brown.
- 2. Introductions:**
  - a. The taskforce welcomed new committee member John Hernandez with introductions. John replaced JoAnna Schilling as JoAnna is currently serving on the CEO Board.
- 3. #RealCollegeCalifornia Update**
  - a. Paula Umana provided an update on the #RealCollege Coalition. #RealCollege is celebrating their three-year anniversary in 2021 and has established the following goals:
    - i. Create an institutional culture that recognizes that securing access to food and housing is essential to students' academic success and that it should be treated as a top educational priority
    - ii. Increase institutional effectiveness to advance basic needs work
    - iii. Build internal capacity to implement and advocate for policy change, enhancing the operationalization of programs designed to support students
  - b. #RealCollege had 14 colleges in their coalition during year one and 39 colleges (including 2 districts) during year two. Only one college did not renew from year one. They have expanded their support services to include the following offerings:
    - i. Webinars on innovative tools and evidence-based promising practices
    - ii. Professional development opportunities for staff
    - iii. 50% discount to field the #RealCollege Survey
    - iv. Unlimited 1:1 and group coaching
  - c. Paula listed the following outcomes from year two:
    - i. Programming:
      1. Effective practices to equitably increase support utilization
      2. Anti-racism practices in emergency aid programs
      3. Getting & keeping students engaged
    - ii. Build a stronger community of practitioners
    - iii. 40% participated in the #RealCollege Survey
      1. NOTE: they will not be fielding the survey in 2021 due to the pandemic but will field it in 2022

- iv. Free admission to the 2020 #RealCollegeCalifornia Basic Needs Summit
- d. Paula reported that more than half of students experiencing basic needs insecurity did not apply for support because they did not know how. #RealCollege was approved to conduct a student *CalFresh Outreach Project* with the goal to “build capacity to increase student access and utilization” of resources available on campus. The #RealCollege will be engaging with CEOs and other partners in this study.
  - i. Colleen Ganley put the following information in the chat: “Cost free CalFresh Toolkits to assist your college’s outreach efforts around this resource. Toolkits include CalFresh informational materials to post around your campus and share with students. If you are interested in receiving a complimentary CalFresh toolkit, please fill out the CalFresh Toolkit Request Form by Wednesday, June 30th.”  
<https://forms.gle/H2x69LJ2SUfCH3x1A>
- e. Paula listed the following items as #RealCollege’s goals for year 3:
  - i. Growth and recruitment
  - ii. Strengthening the basic needs ecosystem
  - iii. Teaching basic needs assessment to colleges
  - iv. New programming
    - 1. Focus on mental health and helping students transition back to campus
  - v. Asynchronous learning
  - vi. Coaching
- f. #RealCollege will be working with CCLC to recruit new members for the upcoming year. Diana Rodriguez will continue to help support these efforts. Lastly, Paula shared information on an upcoming #RealCollege Virtual Journey Events webinar that will concentration on Racial Justice. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, July 14 at 3:00p.m. and will focus on two paths: 1) Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in the Basic Needs Movement and 2) Work Requirements, Deservingness, and the Social Safety Net.
- g. Pam Luster commented that one of the challenges CEOs are facing is scaling and permeating their institutions organizationally and mentioned that it would be helpful for the coalition to think about these professional learning opportunities far enough in advance so that regional work can be scheduled. Pam mentioned that it will be important to relay #RealCollege’s mission to campus basic needs coordinators, financial aid directors, and other folks doing the heaving lifting. Additionally, it will be important to broaden the capacity of each institution. Paula mentioned that it will be important to capture a list of basic needs employees on each campus to start outreach.
- h. Erik Skinner reiterated the importance of pledging a basic needs coordinator and dedicated channel of communication on each campus to support basic needs efforts. Tammie Gilkerson requested that the taskforce send out #RealCollege’s curriculum, one-pager with messaging, and schedule to the coalition/Trustee/CEO listservs to help spread the word. Colleen Ganley mentioned that she has a basic needs listserv of more than 120 people that can be tapped into to help disseminate information. Additionally, Colleen questioned how the CCC system can begin to shift the culture of basic needs efforts to help broaden access and destigmatize the need for these resources. Pam Luster reiterated that the next “heavy lift” will be changing culture, helping students with housing applications, and financial aid reform.

#### 4. Legislative & Budget Update

- a. Andrew Martinez reported that the Governor’s May Revision is a significantly different

budget than the January budget. He reported that there is a lot of money and a need to figure out how to spend the funds in a wise and strategic manner. Andrew reported that the final budget agreement will be finalized by June 30. There is an investment of \$30 million for basic needs efforts. \$4 billion has been provided for housing. (See Rebekah Cearly's caveat in section c.) Andrew stated that we might look to AB 1377, by Assemblymember McCarty, as a vessel for the implementation of this \$4 billion. The conversation on housing will continue on through the summer.

- b. Ryan McElhinney reported that the Chancellor's Office did an analysis of the legislators' proposal to increase financial aid through the budget and the normal Cal Grant process. They found that 17% of those dollars will be going to community colleges or community college students. Ryan mentioned that AB 1456 is a bill that would not discriminate against our students and reported that it is moving through the legislator and is now in the Senate. Ryan advised the committee that it is critical to keep pushing this bill and use it as a vehicle to talk about the current inequities within the Cal Grant system and how it is not serving CC students. The Student Senate has been pushing this bill.
- c. Ryan reported on AB 755, the Berman bill related to basic needs centers and coordinators, stating that this bill is funded in the budget and that the real questions is how the money will go out. Ryan stated that the Governor is proposing that it be more flexible and be better integrated into the financial aid offices versus Berman's more specific vision on an individual coordinator and individual basic needs center. Additionally, Ryan reported that the America's College Promise has written rewards for institutions with low tuition meaning that CCCs would receive money with the ability to directly spend on students or on their institutions.
- d. Another federal issue that has come up is the reintroduction of the Basic Act authored in the House by Congresswoman Torres and in the Senate by Senator Padilla. The Basic Act would do two things: 1) provide \$500 million in grants for basic needs and 2) require data sharing among a number of departments to utilize financial aid data to identify students who might be eligible for other basic needs programs and automatically connect them, enroll them, and reach out to them.
- e. Rebekah Cearly reported that she is concerned with skepticism around the use of P3's both from Assemblymember McCarty and others who are involved in the conversation. P3's are an important tool when looking at constructing student housing. Additionally, Rebekah clarified that on the legislative proposal, it is \$4 billion but what is unknown is how much will be allocated to student housing. She mentioned that they also want to use some of that money for UCs and CSUs to build capacity which is code for general facilities.
- f. Tammeil thanked the League's GR team and Rebekah Cearly for coordinating meetings with legislators to talk about CC affordability efforts, showcase the taskforce's published briefs and talk about recommendations. Keith Curry mentioned that it would be helpful for the League to put together a basic needs chart that links bills that have been passed to implementation at community colleges in order to document progress on basic needs efforts.

## **5. Student Housing RFP (proposals due July 9)**

- a. Lisa Mealoy reported that the League has launched a request for proposals for student housing feasibility studies. Questions will be due July 1<sup>st</sup> and proposals will be due July 9<sup>th</sup>. Lisa requested that committee members review the proposals. Lisa will send out more information, dates, and calendar invites to volunteer reviewers. The following committee members volunteered: Julia Morrison, Erik Skinner, Nick Jiles, Andra Hoffman.

## 6. Transportation Report Publication Next Steps

- a. Adrienne Grey mentioned that the Trustee webinars and League conferences would be a good place to showcase both the Transportation and Food Insecurities publications. Tammeil mentioned that it was requested by Trustees to do a deeper dive into Housing Affordability issues via webinar. Adrienne Grey will work with the League to host a deeper-dive webinar.

## 7. Food Insecurity Report Discussion

- a. Tom Burke reviewed the draft Food Insecurities brief with the committee. The brief can be found here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ns6axGIzubmxqmiaa4rMVw\\_Vupq7nq5KX5og2TOibjw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ns6axGIzubmxqmiaa4rMVw_Vupq7nq5KX5og2TOibjw/edit?usp=sharing)
- b. The following committee members were volunteered to edit the brief: Nick Jiles, Pam Luster, Tammeil Gilkerson, Larry Galizio, and Laura Murrell. The committee listed its goal to publish the report during the Fall giving time for the committee, Trustee and CEO Boards, Chancellor's Office and other groups to coalesce around the report.
- c. Nick Jiles reported that he and a colleague at the Foundation are working on a project to try and close the gap between food insecurity and housing. He stated that he will be taking the statewide assessment – where he has mapped all of the housing by region – and will make sure to look at existing food or food resiliency infrastructure throughout the system and will start to map that data as well. Nick provided data on CC campuses that currently have student housing which can be found here:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QgmaSblN21kFZJfqI67NDh\\_N0Wz8gfE7/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QgmaSblN21kFZJfqI67NDh_N0Wz8gfE7/view?usp=sharing).  
Nick also shared the following link regarding student housing bills that the Foundation is tracking. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ww-9xi8AXmWlhXcQ10EGNiYRvZfWeR\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ww-9xi8AXmWlhXcQ10EGNiYRvZfWeR_/view?usp=sharing)

## 8. Goal Setting and Next Steps for Taskforce

- a. Meeting Schedule
  - i. The committee decided to take a pause for the Summer and start regular meetings in the Fall. Tammeil suggested that it would be a good idea to kick off the Fall with a retreat to reflect and set goals for the upcoming year. Keith Curry suggested that a survey be sent to the committee to gather goals and recommendations in order to help develop the agenda for the retreat. Tammeil also suggested that the committee survey the field (CEOs and Trustees) to see where everyone is at and where they need support regarding basic needs. Tammeil called on the following volunteers to help engage with her on the (*short, 3-5 question*) field survey: Paula Umana, Pam Luster, Anda Hoffman, Keith Curry.
- b. Membership & Co-Chairs
  - i. Membership and co-chairs will be further discussed at the retreat.
- c. Basic Needs Summit Date Identification
  - i. The 2020 Basic Needs Summit was converted to a virtual conference due to the pandemic. The committee's goal for the 2021-22 Basic Needs Summit will be to hold it in-person (or hybrid) at San Diego Mesa College. The date of the conference as well as conference co-chairs will be determined at a later date. Below are notes from a previous discussion regarding moving the summit date to February in order to create a Basic Needs Advocacy Week. Pam Luster volunteered to help determine a week that

does not conflict with any other calendar items (CHEBNA conference, Legislative Conference, CEO Symposium, ACCA, etc.). She will work with the CEO Board on this.

1. Basic Needs Advocacy Week (notes from November meeting):
  - a. Tammeil met with Laura Murrell, Communications Manager at the League, to discuss advocacy strategies as well as potentially creating and branding a Basic Needs Advocacy Week
  - b. Tammeil appealed to the committee on whether they would consider creating a basic needs advocacy week that would take place during the third or fourth week in February to coincide with the legislative cycle
    - i. Suggestion to line up the Basic Needs Summit in future years to be held at the end of the advocacy week
    - ii. Kevin Walthers suggested to push FAFSA completion at the summit (FAFSA due in early March for priority)
  - c. Suggestion to create a Twitter and Instagram account that is specific to the #RealCollegeCalifornia Coalition
    - i. Will be used to highlight the newsletter, advocacy week, membership, summit, etc.
  - d. Action item to build a contact list of basic needs coordinators
    - i. Pam Luster suggested that the taskforce invite Colleen Ganley from the Chancellor's Office to join the taskforce due to her work with the basic needs coordinators on each college campus
  - e. Paula Umana mentioned that The Hope Center has a Policy and Advocacy team that is available to help support the taskforce's efforts in advocacy and communication pieces

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