



**Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce**

*Real Solutions to Real Challenges*

**Meeting Summary**

**Friday, December 11, 2020**

**In Attendance:** Dorothy Battenfeld, Byron Clift Breland, Rebekah Cearley, Keith Curry, Colleen Ganley, Martha Garcia, Tammeil Gilkerson, Adrienne Grey, Andra Hoffman, Jennifer King, Pam Luster, Julia Morrison, Diana Rodriguez, Joanna Schilling, Stephen Schoonmaker, Erik Skinner, Kevin Walthers, Matt Wetsetin. League Staff: Larry Galizio, Andrew Martinez, Ryan McElhinney, Sadie Brown.

**Debrief #RealCollegeCA Basic Needs Summit**

1. Things to Celebrate
  - a. There were 540 registrants; roughly 350 registrants attended the general session.
  - b. Soledad O'Brien was not able to join the conference live but was able to join Martha and JoAnna the on 12/3 to participate in a taped Q&A session.
  - c. The student panelists (and student moderator) each received a \$500 scholarship thanks to Soledad O'Brien donating her honorarium as well as the League's \$2,500 sponsorship.
  - d. The coaching sessions were all well received and well attended by the audience.
2. Things to Consider/Improve & Planning for 2021 Summit
  - a. Suggestion from Matt Wetstein to expand the conference to three coaching sessions / strands. There were a large number of proposals that were not used for the two strands of coaching sessions that can be incorporated to future events and or training sessions. It was suggested to expand the conference once held live in person as it was intentional to keep a shortened program for the virtual environment.
  - b. Suggestion from Keith Curry for Tammeil and Kevin to send an emailed letter to the CEO listserv regarding information and resources provided at the conference, as well as a push to join the coalition.

**Update on #RealCollegeCA Efforts**

1. New Newsletter
  - a. Diana and Byron leading the effort on the #RealCollegeCA newsletter. The newsletter will be sent every other month to the coalition listserv through The Hope Center's mailing system.
  - b. The Hope Center building up their coalition listserv with the help of the League. Jennifer King is the contact for any questions regarding the listserv.
  - c. Pam Luster suggested that the newsletter only be a resource for RCCA coalition members.
  - d. Kevin Walthers recommended that the newsletter be sent out after the Statewide CEO meeting.
2. Outreach to Colleges
  - a. Pam Luster suggested that Tammeil and Kevin share the current list of coalition members with CEOs at the Statewide CEO meeting and encourage signups by providing CEOs the membership link during the meeting.

### 3. Student Leaders

- a. JoAnna Schilling announced that one of her students at Cypress College applied to the Student Leadership Advisory Council at the Hope Center. The advisory committee will select 2-3 California-based students to serve on the committee. It was suggested that the Taskforce connect with the students once the names are announced.

## Update on Areas of Focus & Completion of Template

### 1. Housing Affordability

- a. Update from Matt Wetstein: Matt screenshared a draft document chronicling housing affordability issues, focusing on the construction of residence halls and student housing projects across the state. Matt requested for taskforce members to send him any updates on CCC housing projects to add to the ongoing list.
- b. Update from Rebekah Cearley: Rebekah mentioned that there is no guarantee that anything will happen in the legislature on student housing in 2021 but that it remains on the list as a priority with the Assembly and Senate. Rebekah mentioned that there are two ideas that have come out of conversation with policy leaders: 1) funding for feasibility studies and technical assistance (there is some interest from Assemblymember McCarty to reintroduce AB 2353), and 2) a revolving loan fund program. Rebekah announced that the Foundation has hired a person to do development of student housing business models and that organizations like the Foundation, the League, etc. will be continuing to work together to keep the ball moving forward. Additionally, Rebekah asked the taskforce if they were aware of any CCC housing projects that do not depend on a P3 model. Rebekah to get clarification on whether it is from a development standpoint or an operational standpoint.

### 2. Food Insecurity

- a. Update from Tom Burke: Tom suggested that the taskforce survey all 116 colleges to learn more about how they are addressing food insecurity. He also suggested that the taskforce identify food banks, federal food distribution, and non-governmental entities that distribute food and make it available as a resource to all 116 colleges. Matt Wetstein mentioned that a survey went out in 2018 surveying food distribution efforts at CCCs and that it serves as a good source document to pull a few data points.
- b. Ryan McElhinney reported that a bill was just passed that allows the Chancellor's Office to enter in a statewide MOU that would make it easier to facilitate restaurant meal programs on campus. Colleen Ganley confirmed that the Chancellor's Office is in communication with the Department of Social Services but that an MOU has not been drafted yet. It will be modeled after the CSU MOU which also has yet to be drafted. Colleen provided a link to the Chancellor's Office 2019-2020 Hunger Free Campus Report survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7WWNPXS> as well as a link to the California Association of food banks zip code locator: <http://www.cafoodbanks.org/find-food-bank>
- c. Below is an emailed update from Colleen Ganley regarding the MOU (sent after the Taskforce meeting):
  - i. "I received a response from the CA Department of Social Services regarding AB 612 (the legislation that authorizes CDSS to enter into a master MOU with CCCCCO to allow all of the colleges to offer the Restaurant Meals Program). They have not made progress on the RMP MOU as of yet, but are hiring a new group of people at their agency to work

specifically on the RMP and anticipate rapid progress once the new staff are in place. I also reached out to the John Burton Advocates for Youth and they are very willing to do a briefing with the Task Force on supporting colleges to access the HHAPP funds.”

### 3. Affordability Solutions

- a. Update from JoAnna Schilling on transportation: JoAnna will continue to work on transportation efforts with Dorothy and Ryan. JoAnna requested that the committee follow up with her if they have any transportation partnerships or know of a college that does.
  - i. Tammeil mentioned that Omid sent out an email regarding transportation to the CEO listserv that might help JoAnna’s efforts.
  - ii. Tom Burke mentioned that Kern CCD has a current partnership with the local busses, providing students with 24/7 service at a pick-up/drop-off center for a nominal fee.
- b. Update from Dorothy Battenfeld on technology: Dorothy will continue to monitor the legislature’s focus on bridging the technical divide. She provided Kevin Walther an update on her work using the submission form:  
<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=9700860C2524C9EF!1143&ithint=file%2cxlsx&authkey=!AhQcMNiCY-KZ14A>
  - i. Tom Burke noted his surprise at the significant student drop off in areas with extensive broadband capacity, suggesting that the committee should focus on the affordability of the technological infrastructure just as much as the lack of infrastructure accessibility.
- c. Update from Colleen Ganley: The 2021 budget did not include Hunger Free Campus funding. There is advocacy happening with the CCC Student Senate in partnership with the John Burton and Advocates for Youth to endorse a bill that supports having ongoing and established funding. Colleen mentioned that there are ongoing funds for CCCCCO’s Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot Program. 14 colleges were identified and are establishing MOUs with their local housing service agencies. \$9M will be disseminated among these schools to provide rapid rehousing services to students. It is a model that is replicating what is happening at Cerritos College. Colleen is also actively participating in a CalFresh Student Eligibility Workgroup with the Department of Social Services working on a variety of issues having to do with policy and regulation around CalFresh and Student Eligibility. California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBNA) will be hosting a virtual event in the spring. Colleen to follow up with taskforce members and provide information on carry over funds that are still available. CEOs will then inform their colleagues of these funds and encourage them to complete the Hunger Free Campus survey.
- d. Tammeil suggested that the Taskforce present on their efforts regarding students’ basic needs at the League’s bi-monthly CEO Webinar (to begin again in the Spring).

### 4. Advocacy

- a. Update from Ryan McElhinney: The legislative session just started this week and there are no bills related to basic needs or affordability. CSAC continues to push the modernization of Pell Grants to focus on the total cost of attendance and have shared models that could change Cal Grants to be more focused on total cost of attendance.
- b. Update from Larry Galizio: The League has hired Tom Downs – based in Washington, DC – on contract. He will present at future CEO Webinars. The League also put together a budget letter that focuses on an E shaped recovery, an equitable economic recovery model. The budget letter also stresses the importance of flexibility with funds provided to campuses as each institution has different needs.

### **Update to CEOCCC Statewide Meeting**

5. The CEO Statewide meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, November 15 at 12:00p.m. Co-chairs Tammeil Gilkerson and Kevin Walthers will have 5 minutes to provide an update on the taskforce's efforts to their colleagues.

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

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