



**SACRAMENTO
STEPS FORWARD**

Ending Homelessness. Starting Fresh.

Point-in-Time Count (PIT) Committee

Monday, March 25, 2019 | 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100, CA 95833 – NIC Main (First Floor)

Meeting Purpose: To review a draft work plan for the committee to complete its work of debriefing the 2019 PIT Count and developing recommendations for future PIT Counts and future PIT Count Committees..

I. Welcome and Introductions			
II. February 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes	Chair	9:30 AM (5 minutes)	Action
III. Review Draft Work Plan	Presenter(s): Michele Watts, Chief Programs Officer	9:35 AM (45 minutes)	Discussion
IV. Discuss Volunteer Coordination Information Needs for April Meeting	Presenter(s): Michele Watts	10:20 AM (20 minutes)	Discussion
VIII. Meeting Adjourned			



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**Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Committee of the
Sacramento CoC Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2019**

Attendance:

Member	Organization	Present
David Heitsman	Sacramento LGBT Center	Yes
Jesse Archer	Sacramento LGBT Center	Yes
Bridget Alexander	Waking the Village	Yes
Benjamin Uhlenhop	Next Move	Yes
Jeff Tardaguila	Community Member	Yes
Stefan Heisler	City of Rancho Cordova	Yes
Noel Kammermann	Loaves & Fishes	Yes
Julie Pederson	Sacramento Sheriff's Department	Yes
Daniel Monk	Sacramento City Police Department	Yes

Guests & Staff	Organization	Present
Arturo Baiocchi	CSUS	Yes
Ethan Evans	CSUS	Yes
Justin Morris	CSUS	Yes
Lisa Bates	SSF CEO	Yes
Kate Casarino	SSF Contracts & CoC Coordinator	Yes
Nick Lee	SSF COO	Yes
Michele Watts	SSF CPO	Yes

Meeting Purpose:

Orientation of members of the newly formed PIT Committee, including (1) committee purpose, scope, and member roles and responsibilities and (2) overview of the 2019 PIT.

I. Welcome and Introductions			
II. Committee Purpose, Scope & Member Roles and Responsibilities	Presenter(s): Michele Watts, SSF Chief of Programs	9:30 AM (15 minutes)	Information
Michele presented a handout outlining committee purpose and scope and member roles and responsibilities (attached).			
III. PIT Overview & Main Components A. HUD's PIT Count Mandate B. Research Design- Methodology & Reporting C. Volunteer Coordination D. Deployment Logistics	Presenter(s): Nick Lee, SSF Chief Operating Officer and Michele Watts	9:45 AM (10 minutes)	Information
<p>- HUD mandates that CoCs conduct a biennial count of unsheltered people. Some CoCs do an annual unsheltered PIT. HUD sets forth guidance on acceptable methodologies but CoCs have leeway within that to design a process that works locally.</p> <p>- The PIT Count is comprised of three major areas of work: (1) research design- methodology and reporting; (2) volunteer coordination; and (3) deployment logistics. Michele and Nick provided a high-level summary of these areas, which the committee will explore more deeply in the coming months.</p>			
IV. PIT Methodology Presentation and Q&A	Presenter(s): Arturo Baiocchi, Principal Researcher, CSUS	9:55 AM (30 minutes)	Information
Arturo and his team presented a powerpoint on PIT Methodology (attached).			
V. Approach to Work Plan A. Organize by Main Components B. What Do Members Want to Examine?	Presenter(s): Michele Watts	10:25 AM (10 minutes)	Discussion
<p>- Staff proposes that the committee structure its work plan according to the three major areas of PIT Count work: (1) research design- methodology and reporting; (2) volunteer coordination; and (3) deployment logistics.</p> <p>- Members listed PIT Count topics they want to cover:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the impacts of changes made from 2017 to 2019 in terms of who was counted and who was interviewed among the unsheltered homeless population. 2. Plan for replicating the 2019 PIT Count activities targeted to TAY with unsheltered families for 			

2021.

3. Define a community process for adding non-HUD-mandated questions for the next PIT.
 4. Develop a recommendation on whether or not to do a PIT Count annually.
 5. Discuss how we can know if an increase is real, rather than a function of more mapped areas and more volunteers.
 6. Is there a way to estimate how many youth are being counted as adults?
 7. The committee will do a detailed review of the 2019 survey to inform recommendations for the next PIT.
 8. The committee will review a summary of mapping data and where it came from to inform recommendations for the next PIT.
 9. The committee will review a summary of the volunteer recruitment efforts to inform recommendations for the next PIT.
 10. The committee will review a summary of the volunteer training efforts to inform recommendations for the next PIT.
 11. The committee will provide input on the PIT Report to CSUS research team.
- Ethan from CSUS urges the committee to focus on “big picture” questions about how to improve the PIT in the future.

VI. Election of Committee Co-Chairs	Presenter(s): Michele Watts	10:35 AM (10 minutes)	Action
Michele facilitated an election of Co-Chairs. The committee elected Jesse Archer, Noel Kammermann, and Jeff Tardaguila by consensus.			
VII. Next Steps A. Meeting Schedule B. March Meeting Agenda Topics	Presenter(s): Nick Lee and Michele Watts	10:45 AM (15 minutes)	Discussion
- Members agreed to meet the 4 th Monday of every month, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM, at SSF. - Co-Chairs and staff will meet prior to the March meeting to draft a work plan for consideration at the March meeting.			
VIII. Meeting Adjourned			



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Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Committee of the Sacramento CoC Advisory Board

Purpose and Scope

Formation of the PIT Count Committee creates a formal mechanism for the CoC Advisory Board to engage with staff in the planning and implementation of the HUD-mandated biennial PIT Count. The 2019 committee will focus its efforts on assessing existing PIT Count practices, debriefing the 2019 PIT, and defining the role and scope for future PIT Count Committees, to be implemented beginning with the 2021 PIT Committee. The 2019 PIT Committee will report back to the full Advisory Board in August or September 2019.

Member Roles and Responsibilities

The role of committee members is to represent their constituencies and the broader CoC community to develop recommendations for future PIT Committees for consideration by the CoC Advisory Board. The commitment to this committee is short-term, with the expectation that it will meet monthly from February to approximately July 2019. A work plan and timeline will be developed to guide this effort. Member responsibilities include reviewing materials prior to meetings, attending meetings, advising staff in advance if a meeting will be missed, and following up on any additional commitments the member makes over the course of the committee's work. Committee Co-Chairs take on the additional responsibilities of working with staff to prepare meeting agendas and materials and facilitating the meetings.

Committee Membership

Name	Organization
David Heitsman	Sacramento LGBT Center
Jesse Archer	Sacramento LGBT Center
Bridget Alexander	Waking the Village
Benjamin Uhlenhop	Next Move
Jeff Tardaguila	Community Member
Stefan Heisler	City of Rancho Cordova
Noel Kammermann	Loaves & Fishes
Julie Pederson	Sacramento Sheriff's Department
Daniel Monk	Sacramento City Police Department



2019 Sacramento Homeless Count Overview of Methodologies

California State University, Sacramento
Division of Social Work
Institute for Social Research



SACRAMENTO
STATE

Redefine the Possible



Sacramento State Downtown

2019 Analytical Team

Division of Social Work

Arturo Baiocchi, MA PhD

Susanna Curry, MSW PhD

Ethan Evans, MSW PhD

Sampling Consultant

Justin Morris, MA

Public Health Survey Research

Institute for Social Research

Shannon Williams, PhD

Valory Messier, MA Senior Analyst

Jessica Newhman, Analyst

Graduate Student Researchers

Nathan Garst

Alicia Hatfield

Fleur Marfori

Road map

1. PIT Background

- ✓ General methodology
- ✓ Limitations vs. Misconceptions

2. 2019 Methodology

- ✓ SSF Requests
- ✓ CSUS goals and methodology plans
- ✓ What CSUS actually did

3. Early Results & Looking Ahead

- ✓ The 2019 analysis
- ✓ Input for next time

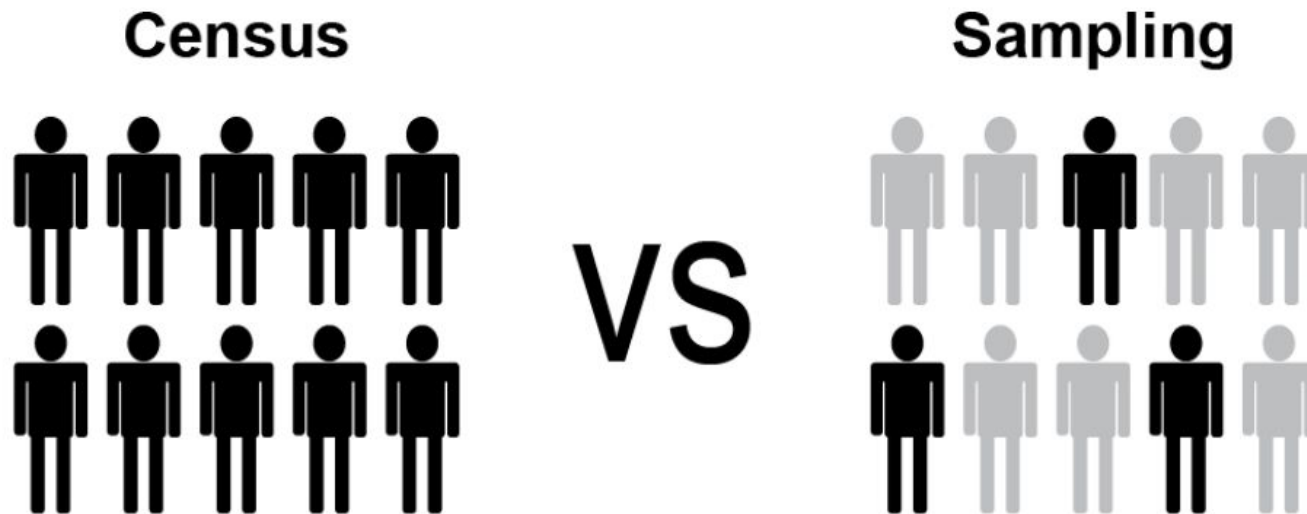
General HUD Guidelines

- A census of individuals/households experiencing *HUD homelessness* within the CoC during a 24-hour period
- Sheltered & Unsheltered
- Conducted every 2 years
- During last 10 days of January



Conventional unsheltered methodology

1. Identify *known locations* in the community
 - *Hot vs. Warm vs. Cold Zones*
2. Census count all “hot” &”warm” locations via volunteers
3. Conduct demographic/HUD survey with a subsample



Limitations vs. Misconceptions

Some limitations to *known location* methodology

1. Just going to locations you know (biased)
2. Scope of unsheltered count shaped by # of volunteers
3. Undercounts of specific populations
 - Transitional aged youth
 - Families with children

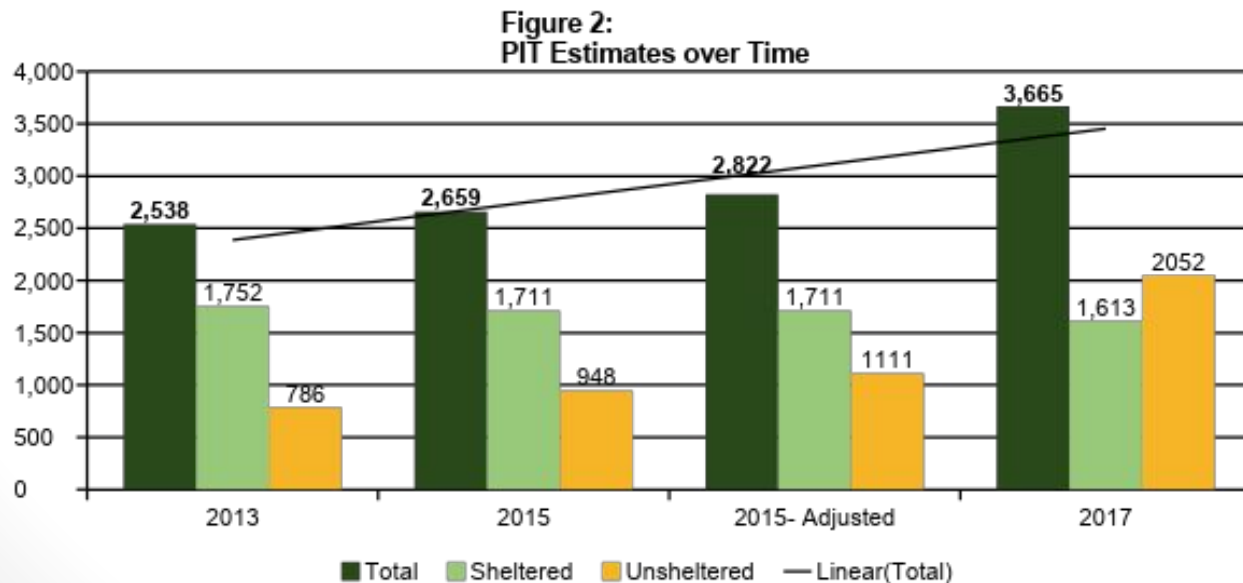
Suggested Route Through Zone

Limitations vs. Misconceptions

True but some caveats...

The PIT is an undercount but likely still a reliable indicator of trends

- ✓ Similar # of volunteers sent to similar # of locations
- ✓ Analogy: inaccurate but precise watch is still useful



Facts or Misconceptions?

Common confusion that the PIT is a 12-month prevalence

- ✓ Snap shot of who fell into homeless or is still homeless *tonight*
- ✓ People come in and out of homelessness every day (70%)
- ✓ 3-4K nightly homeless ~ 11-12K yearly prevalence

2019 Sacramento Homeless Count

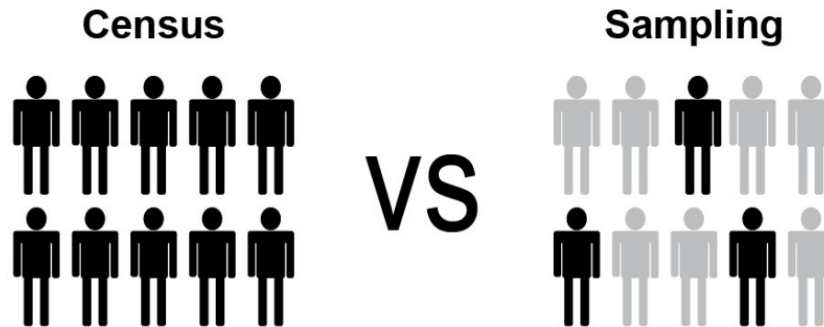
Steps Forward RFP (August 2018): 4 general modifications:

- 1. Establish count maps by US Census designations**
- 2. Update demographic survey instrument**
 - Use mobile phone app
 - Harmonize with HMIS demographics
 - More inclusive for undercounted groups: LGBTQ youth
- 3. Provide estimates for all of the CoC**
 - Move away from census sampling of known locations to random sampling
 - Include projections of known areas not counted
 - Include projection of unknown areas not counted
- 4. Engage various community stakeholders**

Benefits and Costs of Modifications

Benefits

- Broadening the scope of the PIT—addressing undercount
 - Not a census of known locations but an estimate of the entire CoC
 - No longer practical to canvass every known location (120-160 known locations)



- More rigorous approach...

Benefits and Costs of Modifications

Costs/Challenges

- ✓ Uncertainties of trying something(s) new

- ✓ Estimates may be more accurate but could have less statistical precision (less reliable over time)
 - Less concrete if confidence interval is not precise
 - Make comparisons between years difficult

- ✓ Uncertainties of randomly sampling unknown areas
 - Vast areas of the county have no reports of homelessness
 - We have no past information to know beforehand
 - Might not have enough volunteers for a precise estimate

CSUS general approach for 2019

2019 a transition year to a more robust methodology

Pursue a hybrid approach with 3 goals

1) Retain some similarities with previous counts

- 2019 count will be different: but collect some information similarly so comparisons can nonetheless be assessed

2) Prioritize sampling of known locations to improve estimates

- This first year, focus on getting the best estimate of all known locations (sample 60 to project to 120)
- Stratify sampling to maximize precision

3) Limit scope of how unknown locations are sampled

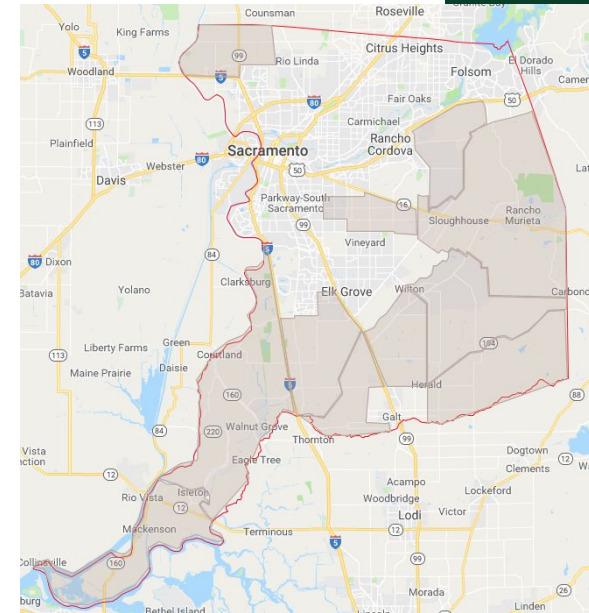
- Reduce total unknown areas to randomly sample
- Stratify sampling to maximize precision
- Possibly abandon estimate if sampling is not sufficient

Specific new things CSUS did for 2019?

- **Formalized a process for identifying known locations**
 - Online portal for reporting known locations
 - Leverage existing data resources from municipalities/county
 - In-person meetings/focus groups with stakeholders
 - Identified 150 known locations
- **Established new survey instrument & protocols**
 - Mobile Survey Technology
 - More inclusive questions via youth providers
 - Coordinated with 100-day Challenge: a magnate event/waitlist
 - Coordinated with family providers: Post-PIT survey
 - Provided additional training of interviewers (260 interviewers)
 - Designated interviewers

Specific new things CSUS did for 2019?

- **Refined a 350²-mile sampling frame of the county**
 - Universe of all locations that could be sampled
 - Based on clustering of past counts
 - Based on population density & practicality
 - Included key HUD jurisdictions (Con Plans)
 - Included all 150 known locations
 - Included 80 completely random locations
- **Standardized sampling units (mapping areas)**
 - Approx. .25² miles
 - Experiment with Census Block Groups (Sacramento only)



Specific new things CSUS did for 2019?

- **Prepared for a 2-night count to maximize volunteer resources**
 - Goal to deploy 160-200 teams (800-1,000 volunteers)
 - Avoid grid lock/excessive wait times
 - 8 deployment schedules: 2 locations x 2 times x 2 nights



Early Results & Looking Ahead

Still cleaning/assessing data but preliminary analysis indicate:

- 170 locations canvassed during 24-hour period
 - Vs. 71 in 2017
- Over 900 volunteers deployed
 - Vs. 300 in 2017

Approx. 600 in-person interviews collected

- 3x more than previous years
- Median 7.5 mins
- Increased % of youth interviewed
- Increased % of families interviewed

Early Results & Looking Ahead

- ✓ The total final count will be a product of:
 - Census count
 - Estimates of warm locations within the 5 Con Plans
 - Estimates of unknown locations across the county

- ✓ Not clear if a reliable estimate for *all* unknown locations is possible this year
 - This information may still be useful for planning purposes for next count
 - May reveal the level of underreporting and areas to improve

- ✓ Final Count will be larger than 2017, but analysis will assess if this is a real increase.

Looking for input for next time

- What kind of count does the community want and can support?
 - Estimating the entire county?
 - Multiple nights/hundreds of locations?
 - Bilingual surveys?
- What types of survey questions are useful/appropriate beyond HUD mandates?
 - Youth-specific questions
 - Other group-specific questions?
 - Balancing practicality/intrusiveness/usefulness: asking different questions each year is problematic



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Thank you

Division of Social Work

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2019 PIT Committee Work Plan- DRAFT 3/25/19

Component/Activities	Timeline	Status
Research Design - Methodology & Reporting		
<i>Product/Deliverable: Recommendations on future PIT processes related to reseach design.</i>		
Debrief targeted activities to count TAY and develop recommendations for the next PIT. Also develop recommendations for applying TAY approach to counting families with children.	June-July	
PIT Survey: Review 2019 survey and develop a community process for adding non-HUD-mandated questions for the next PIT.	June-July	
Mapping: Debrief the 2019 mapping process, including a review of outreach efforts and participating agencies to develop recommendations the next PIT.	June-July	
Volunteer Coordination		
<i>Product/Deliverable: Recommendations on future PIT processes related to volunteer coordination.</i>		
Debrief the 2019 volunteer recruitment efforts and results and develop recommendations for the next PIT.	April-May	
Review the 2019 volunteer training curriculum and develop recommendations for the next PIT.	April- May	
Review the volunteer survey results and develop recommendations for the next PIT.	April-May	
Final PIT Report		
<i>Product/Deliverable: Recommendations and/or input to CSUS ISR research team related to the final PIT Report</i>		
SSF and CSUS ISR to develop a plan for committee engagement in preparing the report.	April	
Implement the committee engagement process.	TBD	