

- f) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 - g) The Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
 - h) The Executive Director of the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee in the State Treasurer's Office
 - i) The State Public Health Officer
 - j) The Director of the California Department of Aging
 - k) The Director of Rehabilitation
 - l) The Director of State Hospitals
 - m) The Executive Director of the California Workforce Development Board
 - n) The Director of the Office of Emergency Services
 - o) A representative from the State Department of Education
 - p) A representative of the state public higher education system from one of the following
 - i. The California Community Colleges
 - ii. The University of California
 - iii. The California State University
 - q) The Senate Committee of Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly shall each appoint one member to the council from two different stakeholder organizations.
- 4) Requires Cal-ICH to have a public meeting at least once every quarter and authorizes Cal-ICH to invite stakeholders, members of the philanthropic community, experts, and individuals who have experienced homelessness.
- 5) Requires Cal-ICH to seek guidance from and meet, at least twice a year, with an advisory committee that include the following:
- a) A survivor of gender-based violence who formerly experienced homelessness
 - b) Representatives of local agencies or organizations that participate in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program
 - c) Stakeholders with expertise in solutions to homelessness and best practices from other states
 - d) Representatives of committees of African Americans, youth, and survivors of gender-based violence
 - e) A current or formerly homeless person who lives in California
 - f) A current or formerly homeless youth who lives in California.

This bill:

1) Adds the director from Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to the Cal-ICH.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Author's statement.* "Given that the California homelessness crisis is only worsening, it is important that all stakeholders understand the importance of what puts individuals at a greater risk of experiencing homelessness. This is a simple way to ensure a representative from the Department of Developmental Services, is involved in helping address the link between developmental disabilities and homelessness."
- 2) *Cal-ICH.* Cal-ICH, formerly known as the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), was created to oversee the implementation of "Housing First" policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California. Housing First is an evidence-based model that focuses on the idea that homeless individuals should be provided shelter and stability before underlying issues can be successfully addressed. Housing First utilizes a tenant screening process that promotes accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety, use of substances or participation in services. As the state's homelessness crisis has worsened, the role of Cal-ICH has significantly increased, as it has been charged with administering two significant programs dedicated to addressing homelessness, the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAPP).
- 3) *Homelessness Numbers.* According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, chronically homeless people are people with disabilities who also experience extended or repeated episodes of homelessness. The 2020 point in time (PIT) count found that 48,812, or 40%, of individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness were in California; 84% of chronically homeless people in California were unsheltered. Nationally, 110,528 (over a quarter of all homeless individuals) were chronically homeless.¹ As a note, chronically homeless people are a subpopulation that Cal-ICH is required to quantify, and

¹ Henry, Meghan; de Sousa, Tanya; Roddey, Caroline; Gayen, Swati; Bednar, Thomas Joe. "The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress." (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, January 2021). <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

localities must address this subpopulation in local landscape analyses in order to receive HHAPP funding.

A review article published by UC San Diego in 2015 titled *A Quantitative Review of Cognitive Functioning in Homeless Adults* suggest the frequency of cognitive impairment is 25% among homeless individuals. This includes neurodevelopmental problems and acquired brain dysfunction. It is also unclear from the data collected if impairments caused homelessness or if homelessness caused impairment, and it is likely that aspects of homelessness impair brain function.² Thus, solving the homelessness crisis is intertwined with mental health supports.

- 4) *Definitions.* The State Council on Developmental Disabilities defines developmental disability as a disability occurring, “before age 22 and includes mental or physical impairment or a combination of both. There must be a substantial limitation in three or more of these major life areas: self-care, expressive of receptive language, learning, mobility, capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency, or self-direction.”³

Homeless individuals with developmental disabilities have not been studied as extensively as other populations. Thus, getting reliable data for this population is not trivial. As noted above, chronically homeless and cognitive impaired homeless people give an idea of this population, but it is not exactly the population targeted in this bill.

- 5) *Is there a dais in California big enough?* This bill would add another member to Cal-ICH bringing the total to 23 people. As noted above, while there is a relationship between developmental disabilities and experiencing homelessness, Cal-ICH possessed the ability under existing law to invite experts and stakeholders to provide expertise on this subject without requiring representation. Given Cal-ICH already has 22 members, there is a risk of having so many members that the council will have a hard time getting things done.

There are a few agencies and people that are both on Cal-ICH and the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. These include:

² Depp, C. A., Vella, L., Orff, H. J., & Twamley, E. W. (2015). “A quantitative review of cognitive functioning in homeless adults.” *The Journal of nervous and mental disease*, 203(2), 126–131.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/NMD.0000000000000248>

³ State Council on Development Disabilities Website. <https://scdd.ca.gov/about/>

California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Health Care Services, Department of Aging, and the Department of Rehabilitation.

Out of the 12 departments under the California Health and Human Services Agency, six are represented in Cal-ICH: Aging, Health Care Services, Public Health, Rehabilitation, Social Services, and State Hospitals.

Child Support Services, Community Services and Development, Developmental Services, Emergency Medical Services Authority, Health Care Access and Information, and Managed Health Care are the departments not explicitly represented on Cal-ICH.

- 6) *Double Referral*. This bill was passed out of the Senate Human Services Committee on April 5, 2022 with a vote of 5-0.

RELATED LEGISLATION:

SB 1421 (Jones, 2022) — adds a current or formerly homeless person with a developmental disability to the advisory committee of Cal-ICH. *This bill is also being heard at this same committee hearing.*

AB 1220 (Luz Rivas, Chapter 398, Statutes of 2021) — renamed the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. It added five members to Cal-ICH: the State Public Health Officer, The Director of the California Department of Aging, The Director of Rehabilitation, The Director of State Hospitals, and the executive director of the California Workforce Development Board. It also created the advisory committee that Cal-ICH must seek guidance from.

SB 1458 (Rubio, 2020) — adds a representative of the State Department of Public Health to Cal-ICH. *This bill is on the inactive file.*

AB 58 (Luz Rivas, Chapter 334, Statutes of 2019) — added a representative from the State Department of Education to Cal-ICH.

SB 687 (Rubio, Chapter 345, Statutes of 2019) — added a representative of the state public higher education system to Cal-ICH.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Thursday, April 21, 2022.)

SUPPORT:

Association of Regional Center Agencies
CA Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
Disability Voices United

OPPOSITION:

None received.

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