



- e) The Director or the State Medicaid Director of Health Care Services
  - 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 of formerly homeless youth who lives in California.

**This bill:**

- 1) Adds a current or formerly homeless person with a developmental disability to the advisory committee of Cal-ICH.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) *Author's statement.* "California has almost [30%](#) (161,548 people) of all individuals experiencing homelessness across the nation. Research suggests that [30% to 40%](#) of this population have a cognitive impairment, including traumatic brain injury, learning difficulties, intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Californians are becoming increasingly concerned with the state's growing homeless population. In fact, Californians name homelessness as the second most important issue, right behind COVID-19, for the Governor and Legislature to work on in 2022.

In order to effectively address the many challenges associated with assisting persons experiencing homelessness, a wide variety of perspectives must be sought, including the perspective of persons with a developmental disability who have experienced, or are currently experiencing, homelessness.

Currently, neither Cal ICH nor its associated advisory committee are required to include a member with this important perspective. SB 1421 adds a current or formerly homeless individual with a developmental disability to the Cal ICH advisory committee in order to provide Cal ICH with readily available access to this much-needed perspective."

- 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.<sup>1</sup> As a note, chronically homeless people are a subpopulation that Cal-ICH is required to quantify, and 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.”<sup>3</sup>

Homeless individuals with developmental disabilities have not been studied as extensively as other populations. Thus, getting reliable data for this population

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<sup>1</sup> Henry, Meghan; de Sousa, Tanya; Roddey, Caroline; Gayen, Swati; Bednar, Thomas Joe. “The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress”. (January 2021).

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> 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. Feb 2015)

<https://doi.org/10.1097/NMD.000000000000248>

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

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) *Advisory Committee.* Cal-ICH has not yet appointed all the member for the advisory council. It may be the case that a number of the members of the committee would be able to help shed light on issues affecting people with developmental disabilities.

It is important to note that Cal-ICH must meet publically at least once a quarter. It also can invite stakeholders, individuals who have experienced homelessness, members of philanthropic communities, and experts to participate in meetings and establish working groups, task forces, or other structures with outside members to assist in its work.

In addition, there are a few agencies and people that are both on Cal-ICH and the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. These include: California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Health Care Services, Department of Aging, and the Department of Rehabilitation.

- 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 1134 (Melendez, 2022)** — adds the director from the Department of Developmental Services to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (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 Again, 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.

**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  
California Catholic Conference  
Disability Voices United

**OPPOSITION:**

None received.

**-- END --**