



**City of Moreno Valley
Homeless AD HOC Subcommittee
Minutes of September 17, 2025**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ulises Cabrera called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. The following attendees were present at the meeting:

Subcommittee Members:

Mayor Ulises Cabrera

Cheylynda Barnard, Council Member

Staff Members:

Brian Mohan, City Manager

Dena Heald, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Angel Galache, Deputy City Manager

Vanessa Leccese, Management Analyst (CM)

John Peraza, Assistant to the City Manager

Sandra Brieno, Deputy Compliance Director

Felicia London, Deputy Finance Director

Natalia Lopez, Financial Resources Division Manager

Dannette Fortin, Management Assistant (Financial Resources)

Shanna Palau, Public Safety Contracts Administrator

Patty Yhuit, Financial Operations Division Manager

Anthony Brandyberry, Maintenance & Operations Division Manager

Dan Monto, Parks and Landscape Services Division Manager

Monica Lopez, Senior Grants Analyst (Grants)

Homeless Task Force Partners:

Kristin Miller, Administrator of RUHS-BH Crisis Support System of Care, Riverside University Health System (RUHS)

Tiffany Boulware, Behavioral Health Services Supervisor, Riverside University Health System (RUHS)

Andrew Sanchez, Outreach Manager, Path of Life Ministries

David Nielson, Manager, The Hole in the Wall, Inc.

Benjamin Schuler, Founder, The Hole in the Wall, Inc.

2. Public Comments

No Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes

ACTION: Council Member Cheylynda Barnard motioned to approve the meeting minutes of May 21, 2025, and Mayor Ulises Cabrera seconded to approve the minutes.

4. Action Items

A. NONE



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5. Advisory Items

A. Opioid Settlement Funds Expenditure Plan (Verbal Updates)

Shanna Palau, Public Safety Contracts Administrator, provided background on how the opioid crisis led to federal lawsuits, and an update on the City of Moreno Valley's participation in the national opioid settlements. In July 2021 federal settlements were announced with an amount of approximately \$26 million that would be distributed to states, counties, and cities. In January 2022, the City Council approved Resolution 2022-01 which authorized the City's participation in the settlements, and in June 2024 City Council authorized participation in additional settlements. The city is currently engaged with approximately 20 entities involved in settlements or bankruptcy proceedings, with each providing different payment schedules through 2038. To date, the city has received about \$3.7 million, with the total expected to increase to approximately \$4 million following the addition of two recently joined settlements.

In June 2025, City Council approved a spending plan with two primary priorities. The first was a five-year agreement with RUHS Behavioral Health to provide two dedicated Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT) exclusively for Moreno Valley. The contract with RUHS has been finalized and has two optional renewal periods. The MCRT are responsible for triage, warm handoff services, and reporting. The next phase of settlement implementation will focus on prevention and education. The city is working with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to determine the allowable indirect costs prior to issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to community-based or non-governmental organizations. This process will assist in identifying service gaps and ensure settlement funds are allocated appropriately.

Shanna also announced the launch of a dedicated city web page as a living repository of settlement information, resources, and supporting documentation, with updates to be added regularly. The City's Media Team is developing a marketing plan to increase community awareness of services funded by the settlements.

Kristin Miller, Administrator of the RUHS-BH Crisis Support System of Care, expressed gratitude for the partnership with the city, which has enabled expanded services. She reported that Moreno Valley's Crisis Behavioral Assessment Team (CBAT) now includes two full-time clinicians with a third onboarding, making Moreno Valley the only city with seven-day-a-week crisis coverage. In FY 2024–25, the mobile crisis teams recorded 689 responses to the community, providing 436 residents with on-going services. The 2,743 services provided ranged from crisis intervention and case management to substance use screening, residential placement, and peer support. Of those served, 59% were youth ages 0–20, 38% were adults 21–64, and 3% were seniors 65+. The teams were able to keep 71% of clients safe in the community without hospitalization or arrest. Kristen noted that the staff is trained in mental health and substance use, is qualified to conduct ASAM



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assessments, and is equipped to carry and administer Narcan. RUHS is also focused on expanding access to the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program.

Mayor Cabrera thanked Kristen for the presentation and asked for more detail on the various incoming crisis calls. Additionally, Mayor Cabrera reflected on the high percentage of youth clients and mentioned a few resources such as the Governor's mentorship initiative and the school district's health and wellness center.

In response, Kristen provided a data report and indicated that she would consult with her research department to determine if a report is available with detailed information on the crisis intervention calls.

City Manager, Brian Mohan, clarified that once the city's contract is fully implemented, reporting requirements will include additional details on the services provided. He emphasized the role of education and prevention in the expenditure plan, noting that approximately \$350,000–\$400,000 is proposed for education and outreach campaigns targeting youth, schools, and the community.

Tiffany Boulware, Behavioral Health Services Supervisor, shared two success stories that highlighted the intensive support required throughout the community. One case involved an unhoused man recently released from jail with significant health, substance use, and legal challenges. The team provided multiple supportive services including medical care, treatment placement, and transportation. The second case involved a client with memory issues who required extensive assistance to access psychiatry and therapy services, this client was able to qualify for full wraparound care. RUHS provides ongoing case management to ensure clients are connected to services.

Mayor Cabrera inquired about CARE Court and RUHS advised that Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director, is the contact and may have updates on the program.

Councilmember Barnard emphasized the need for stress management education in schools to prevent minor stressors from escalating into a crisis. RUHS advised that they have a Suicide Prevention Coalition that includes a subgroup that is specific to school districts.

6. Public Comments

David Nielson, Manager, The Hole in the Wall, Inc.

David Nielson thanked the mobile crisis team for their support, noting that his organization has utilized their services about six times and has benefited from their outreach visits. He then shared statistics gathered from client files to provide context on the populations served. Approximately 75% of clients have experienced homelessness over the last three



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years, with 55% classified as chronically homeless, 25% facing homelessness for the first time, and 10% at risk and will soon be unhoused. Substance use issues are significant, as 63% have had prior treatment experiences, 55% reported at least one mental health hospitalization with 65% not currently taking prescribed medications. Regarding justice involvement, 15% are on probation and 5% on parole. Among disabled clients, 20% receive Social Security Supplemental Security Income or Disability Insurance, while another 15% await determination. For seniors, 70% receive Social Security benefits and are newly homeless, with 15% require assisted living or additional support. Shelter use is common, with 35% of chronically homeless individuals accessing Riverside shelter programs multiple times, and 15% using shelters in surrounding areas. Among women with children, 85% had already accessed the 16-day DPSS hotel/motel voucher program before arriving at The Hole in the Wall, Inc. with 75% having their children enrolled in school during homelessness. In terms of healthcare, 90% use EBT, but only a quarter are connected to a medical provider, and 65% rely on emergency services such as hospitals for non-emergency needs. Nielson concluded by noting that these statistics highlight the challenges faced in the community.

Benjamin Schuler, Founder, The Hole in the Wall, Inc.

Benjamin Shuler described his organization as a “walking version of 211” that provides direct, boots-on-the-ground support to people experiencing homelessness. A longtime Moreno Valley resident, business owner, veteran, and someone with lived experience of homelessness, Mr. Schuler emphasized on his personal understanding of the challenges unhoused individuals face. He explained that his organization regularly provides food, bus passes, clothing, sack lunches, and referrals to mental health services. He expressed concerns with the ongoing issues of trash accumulation in areas where homeless individuals gather. He proposed that the city consider placing secure trash containers in locations commonly used by unhoused individuals, such as near the DPSS building. This will help manage waste without enabling homelessness. Schuler stressed that while homelessness cannot be eliminated entirely, collaborative efforts can make a significant difference, and he offered his agency’s experience and commitment to support the city’s broader response.

Seth Cox, Resident

Seth Cox shared that he was an early supporter of the Ad Hoc Committee. He inquired about the RUHS data reported, and if the data specifically applies to the homeless population, given that this is a homeless-focused committee. While acknowledging the importance of schoolchildren and other groups represented in the statistics, Mr. Cox emphasized the need for clarity, such as how many homeless individuals are being reached each month or quarter, to ensure accurate tracking of impact. He also highlighted that homeless individuals are people first and deserve empathy, even if some choose to live outside traditional systems. Mr. Cox concluded by stating that while homelessness may never be fully solved, the city should focus on what services it can provide to improve



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quality of life, and he appreciated seeing increased community involvement compared to the committee's earlier meetings.

7. Financial Resources Division Comments

Natalia Lopez, Financial Resources Division Manager, provided an update on the Moreno Valley Community Foundation Pilot Program approved by City Council on September 2, 2025, for outreach efforts. The program includes four community-based organizations (CBOs): Building Up Lives, The Hole in the Wall Inc., Inland Compassion, and Power Speaks Louder. The Pilot program will run for two years, with funding of \$35,000 per year allocated to each CBO. Ms. Lopez stated she will be reaching out to the organizations to begin the agreement process.

City Manager Brian Mohan noted that the goal is to have all agreements finalized by December 1st. He clarified that the timeframe would allow the four CBOs to update business licenses and various required documents.

A. Next Homeless Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meeting: October 15, 2025

B. Future meetings on the third (3rd) Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

8. Subcommittee Member Comments

Councilmember Cheylynda Barnard thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting and expressed appreciation for the feedback and comments provided. Councilmember Barnard acknowledged the broad scope of the discussion, explaining that while some may prefer more focused conversations, topics such as mental health services are important and must be incorporated where possible.

Mayor Ulises Cabrera thanked Councilmember Barnard and all attendees for their participation. He stated that he recently confirmed with elected officials from other jurisdictions, that some cities provide bus vouchers to relocate individuals. He suggested the City explore ways to track information on where (city or state) individuals are coming from. This information may be collected through self-reported surveys. He also expressed concern regarding the encampments following the Quality-of-Life Program and recommended further review of these operations to reduce reoccurring encampments in the same locations and lessen the strain on staff. Additionally, he referenced data on individuals brought into services and that taking their prescribed medication, he emphasized the need to identify barriers and improve access and adherence. He concluded by recognizing the complexity of these challenges given limited resources and staffing, and highlighted that Moreno Valley remains the only city operating a mobile crisis response team seven days a week, demonstrating the City's continued commitment to addressing these issues.



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9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M., by Mayor Ulises Cabrera.



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Prior Meeting Attendance

Board Member	2/19/25	3/19/25	4/16/25	5/21/25	9/17/25		
Mayor Ulises Cabrera	X	X	X	X	X		
Council Member Cheylynda Bernard	X	X	X	X	X		
Council Member Erlan Gonzalez (Alternate)							