



**Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce**  
*Real Solutions to Real Challenges*

Meeting Summary  
Friday, November 13, 2020

**In Attendance:** Dorothy Battenfeld, Byron Clift Breland, Rebekah Cearley, Keith Curry, Martha Garcia, Tammeil Gilkerson, Adrienne Grey, Andra Hoffman, Pam Luster, Julia Morrison, Diana Rodriguez, Joanna Schilling, Paula Umana, Kevin Walthers, Matt Wetsetin. League Staff: Larry Galizio, Ryan McElhinney, Sadie Brown.

**Update on #RealCollegeCA Basic Needs Summit (JoAnna & Martha)**

- 275 registrations (500 registrations as of 11.30.2020)
- 43 proposals submitted for the coaching sessions
  - 12 proposals were selected to present during the conference coaching sessions (6 sessions in the AM, 6 sessions in the PM)
- All 4 students on the student panel will receive a \$500 scholarship using the \$2,000 donated from Soledad O'Brien
- Clips from Cypress College, Allan Hancock College, The Hope Center, and Soledad O'Brien will be featured during the summit
- JoAnna and Martha will do a moderated Q&A session with Soledad before the coaching sessions

**Update on #RealCollegeCA Efforts (Byron & Diana)**

- Newsletter Calendar
  - Diana and Byron will be reaching out to colleges who are members of the RCCA coalition to start putting together a newsletter featuring their campus efforts
  - Student stories will be used to build capacity for the newsletter as well as market the value of the coalition to non-members
- Taskforce Outreach to Colleges Plan
  - Diana and Byron to discuss their outreach plan at a later date
  - Request from Paula Umana for the taskforce to help reach out to colleges who are not RCCA members and or who have not paid for their membership
    - Larry Galizio offered to help reach out to colleges regarding the membership
- #RealCollege Monthly Convenings
  - Paula Umana shared The Hope Center's *Year 2 (2020-2021) Programming* to show a calendar of the upcoming training schedule
  - Paula shared that The Hope Center is putting together a newsletter that will highlight student stories as well as staff stories with the goal to have it ready for the conference

(December 4)

### **Review of Accomplishments (Keith)**

- See the Historical Timeline and Achievements document starting on page 4

### **Update on Areas of Focus**

- Housing Affordability
  - Matt Wetstein provided context for the work that he and Rebekah Cearley are doing in regard to housing affordability
  - Rebekah provided an update on facilities financing
    - Discussion on facilities financing has been neglected in the legislature due to COVID
    - Rebekah and her colleagues at The Community College Facility Coalition are working to reignite student housing discussions within the context of the pandemic
    - Rebekah is working with the California School Finance Authority to look at potential financing tools, ways to reduce the cost of financing, and how to attract investors
    - Assemblymember Kevin McCarty has been doing a lot of work in housing affordability and re-introduced a bill that would provide seed money to do feasibility and planning studies
- Food Insecurity
  - Tom will provide an update at the next meeting
- Affordability Solutions
  - JoAnna Schilling to continue work on transportation
    - Ryan McElhinney said that he would send over a few transportation bills to consider
  - Dorothy Battenfeld to continue to monitor legislative initiatives as well as recommendations that are coming out of other education groups
  - Tammeil Gilkerson met with Mike Deer, Financial Aid Director at Mira Costa College and past-president of the Financial Aid Administrators group, to discuss the CEO report on financial aid reform and efforts that CEOs can contribute towards discussion and data analysis regarding financial aid reform as well as housing insecurities
    - Download the CCLC Financial Aid Report, reference page 10 for “Considerations for What a CEO Needs to Know”
      - [https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/pdf/resources/cclc\\_finaid\\_report\\_feb\\_2020\\_final.pdf](https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/pdf/resources/cclc_finaid_report_feb_2020_final.pdf)
    - Martha Garcia commented that CEOs need to be cognizant of the manual process of data entry and other tasks related to financial aid monies/procedures as well as the added workload of the financial aid teams; additional support may be needed
  - Larry Galizio commented that the League, along with the Chancellor’s Office and other entities, will continue to advocate for new money
    - JoAnna reiterated that it is important to have a streamlined process for reporting in order to accurately see where students are receiving financial aid (they may receive

financial aid from one college but are not eligible for it at another college even though they are taking classes at both institutions)

- Ryan McElhinney commented that it may be good for CEOs to give financial aid administrators room to innovate and take more risks to better serve students in terms of monies given – “when in doubt, give it out”
- Basic Needs Advocacy Week
  - Tammeil met with Laura Murrell, Communications Manager at the League, to discuss advocacy strategies as well as potentially creating and branding a Basic Needs Advocacy Week
  - Tammeil appealed to the committee on whether they would consider creating a basic needs advocacy week that would take place during the third or fourth week in February to coincide with the legislative cycle
    - Suggestion to line up the Basic Needs Summit in future years to be held at the end of the advocacy week
    - Kevin Walthers suggested to push FAFSA completion at the summit (FAFSA due in early March for priority)
  - Suggestion to create a Twitter and Instagram account that is specific to the #RealCollegeCalifornia Coalition
    - Will be used to highlight the newsletter, advocacy week, membership, summit, etc.
  - Action item to build a contact list of basic needs coordinators
    - Pam Luster suggested that the taskforce invite Colleen Ganley from the Chancellor’s Office to join the taskforce due to her work with the basic needs coordinators on each college campus
  - Paula Umana mentioned that The Hope Center has a Policy and Advocacy team that is available to help support the taskforce’s efforts in advocacy and communication pieces

#### **Areas of Focus Template (Kevin)**

- Kevin created an Affordability Taskforce Form as a way for the subcommittees to collect and organize ideas
  - Kevin to add a section for the Date and add the League as a policy driver

#### **Task Force Resources:**

[https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/pdf/resources/cclc\\_finaid\\_report\\_feb\\_2020\\_final.pdf](https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/pdf/resources/cclc_finaid_report_feb_2020_final.pdf)

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

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**Real Solutions to Real Challenges**  
**Historical Timeline and Achievements**  
**November 13, 2020**

1. In spring 2018, the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) Chief Executive Officers established the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce to provide system-wide recommendations to address our students' housing and food insecurities daily. This Taskforce goal reviewed and discuss research literature, participate in discussions with leading scholars, and heard from students regarding their challenges with housing and food insecurities. The Taskforce was co-chaired by Dr. Pamela Luster, President of San Diego Mesa College, and Dr. Keith Curry, President of Compton College.
2. In fall 2018, working with the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce and San Diego State University [Community College Equity Assessment Lab](#), developed a survey to California Community College CEOs regarding the student's housing and food insecurities challenges on their campuses. The survey results are available here:  
[https://cleague.org/sites/default/files/publications/cceal\\_food\\_feb2020.pdf](https://cleague.org/sites/default/files/publications/cceal_food_feb2020.pdf)
3. The Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce developed a factsheet, which is available here: [https://cleague.org/sites/default/files/images/affordabilityfactsheet\\_0.pdf](https://cleague.org/sites/default/files/images/affordabilityfactsheet_0.pdf)
4. On **Monday, January 28, 2019**, the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce held an Affordability, Food & Housing Access Capitol Briefing in Sacramento, CA.
5. In March 2019, the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce released the following recommendations:  
[https://cleague.org/sites/default/files/images/Events/taskforce\\_recommendations.pdf](https://cleague.org/sites/default/files/images/Events/taskforce_recommendations.pdf)
6. In spring 2019, working with the [Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#) at Temple University, the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce established #RealCollegeCalifornia. More information on #RealCollegeCalifornia is available here:  
<https://hope4college.com/realcollege/realcollegecalifornia/>
7. During the 2019 legislative session, the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce sponsored legislation focused on food insecurity, specifically [Assembly Bill - 612 CalFresh: Restaurant Meals Program](#). Working with Senator Holly Mitchell (CA-30), the Taskforce successfully advocated for \$500,000 to the California Community College Chancellors Office to study our students' food insecurities.
8. In October 2019, the California Community College Chancellors Office and the Community College League of California requested the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce Phase II – Affordable Student Housing. The Taskforce Phase II was co-chaired by Dr. Pamela Luster, President of San Diego Mesa College, and Dr. Keith Curry, President of Compton College. In [recommendations](#) released in March 2019, the Taskforce noted several items related to student housing, specifically:
  - Commit new resources to build student residential housing on California Community Colleges campuses to address the needs of the homeless student population.
  - Provide substantial one-time funding for colleges to begin the initial planning.

- Establish baseline ongoing funding for deferred maintenance, and allow California Community Colleges to utilize scheduled maintenance funding to support ongoing maintenance costs for student residential housing.

The Taskforce Phase II – Affordable Student Housing was expected to policies related to student housing facilities and address the following questions:

- What standards or definitions should we use to determine whether student housing is sufficiently affordable?
- What mechanisms can we put in place keep costs low should a college enter a public-private partnership?
- What land is currently available across the California Community Colleges that could be used for affordable student housing?
- What land-use models and partnerships can colleges access to provide affordable student housing?
- How can a college's costs for these facilities (e.g., construction, operations, and maintenance) be sustained and kept sufficiently low?
- What funds, including other public programs, are available to offset any rent paid by students, with a clear intent that such programs not be funded from within the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee?
- How would student housing eligibility be determined, given the intent specifically to address students' housing insecurity?
- What do CEOs and boards need to know before they launch affordable student housing initiatives?
- How do student housing costs and benefits compare to those other policy alternatives intended to address housing insecurity?

9. Working with Laney College, supported the #RealCollegeCalifornia Basic Needs Summit on **Friday, December 6, 2019.**
10. In fall 2019, working with the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce Phase II – Affordable Student Housing and the California State University of Long Beach with the Center for Equitable Higher Education South developed a survey to California Community College CEOs regarding student housing. The survey results are available here: [https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/publications/cce\\_housing\\_access\\_survey\\_crutchfield\\_2020.pdf](https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/publications/cce_housing_access_survey_crutchfield_2020.pdf)
11. In winter 2020, the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce Phase II – Affordable Student Housing working with California Community Colleges CEOs gathered information on student housing partnerships at California Community College campuses.
12. In fall 2020, Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce was reestablished and is co-chaired by Dr. Tammie Gilkerson, President of Evergreen Valley College, and Dr. Kevin Walthers, President of Allen Hancock College. The Taskforce has established the following areas of focus Housing Affordability, Food Insecurity, Affordability Solutions, and Basic Needs Advocacy.
13. The annual #RealCollegeCalifornia Basic Needs Summit: Fostering Resiliency During A Pandemic is scheduled for **Friday, December 4, 2020.**