



# Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

## Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

1:00 – 5:00 PM, Pacific Time – Meeting held via Zoom

Zoom Recording:

[https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/F92RF9WZ\\_iYhojBu2cLCSebaPf-66XUTjXnfwuQm0MqBSGwQVooetTTVmWn7Q3H.Zs\\_bvMBs7-Clccc1](https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/F92RF9WZ_iYhojBu2cLCSebaPf-66XUTjXnfwuQm0MqBSGwQVooetTTVmWn7Q3H.Zs_bvMBs7-Clccc1)

Passcode: 2+eCPxQm

### Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:07:24 – 00:17:08)

Jennielynn Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and went over the Zoom rules regarding public comment and Brown Act guidelines.

Jennielynn Holmes introduced the Assistant County Administrator, Jennifer Solito, and welcomed her to her new role as Interim Department of Health Services (DHS) Director, which she will be filling while the recruitment process for a permanent DHS Director is in progress.

Subsequently, Jennifer Solito introduced the new DHS Homelessness Services Division Director, James Alexander, who is attending his first HC Board meeting in his new official capacity.

James Alexander extended an offer to meet with each individual HC Board member, as desired, at their convenience.

Alea Tantarelli proceeded with roll call in the form of HC Board members identifying their name, title, and the organization they represent as introduction to the new attendees, Jennifer Solito and James Alexander.

**Present:** Dennis Pocekay, City of Petaluma | Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities | Kelli Kuykendall, proxy for Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa | Ben Leroi, Santa Rosa Community Health | Sean Hamlin, proxy for Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Margaret Sluyk, Reach For Home | Chris Cabral, Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | Kristi Lozinto, Member At-large | Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Chessy Etheridge, Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAP)) | Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park | Dannielle Danforth, West County Community Services | Salvina Norris, Sonoma County Indian Health Project (SCHIP) | Aaron Mello, LEAP Board

**Absent:** Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa | Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Cheyenne McConnell, TAY Representative | Una Glass, City of Sebastopol | Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma

A quorum was present.

#### **1 - 4. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:17:11 – 00:20:03)**

- Jennielynn Holmes, CoC Board Chair, presented the consent calendar items:
  1. 8/28/24 meeting agenda
  2. 7/24/24 meeting minutes
  3. Summary of Follow-ups from Previous Meeting(s)
  4. Reports for Standing Committee Updates
- **Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon
- **Motion:** Martha Cheever moves to approve the Consent Calendar.  
**Second:** Dennis Pocekay seconds the motion.  
**Abstentions or Objections:** None.  
**Motion passes.** The consent calendar is approved.

#### **3. Summary of Follow-ups from Previous Meetings (00:20:08 – 00:42:45)**

- Website Update: Michael Gause reported that there is a new contract with the Sonoma County Information Services Department (ISD) to re-work the Homeless Coalition website, which may also involve a bit of the Homelessness Division website. Andrew Akufo, Adam Siegenthaler, and Michael Gause will be working with ISD to create a more user-friendly website and to make improvements to the Dashboard. The project is expected to progress over the next couple of months.
- Homeless Encampment Access and Resource Team (HEART) Team Information: James Alexander Indicated he will be researching the role of the HEART Team in consultation with Jennifer Solito and will report on their findings in the future.

Jennielynn Holmes clarified that the question at hand seems to concern the HEART Team's role in subregional outreach, their geographic boundaries, and how their work might best be incorporated with the efforts of the service provider agencies.

Dennis Pocekay elaborated that HEART Team services might best be utilized in a role as consultants to the entire county rather than working as the primary outreach in any location.

Jennifer Solito offered that the originally approved Sonoma County Board of Supervisors' item specified that the HEART Team's work was relegated to County and Community Development Commission (CDC) property. However, HEART works closely with the Sonoma County Sheriff's office in unincorporated areas, and those geographic

boundaries can become blurred. Feedback received today will be considered in future County brainstorming efforts with law enforcement and others to discern the best path forward.

- MOU between SCHC and Lead Agency: Jennifer Solito and James Alexander will review the documents and follow up with County Counsel as to their status. There is one document for the lead agency, and a second one for the collaborative applicant.
- Racial Equity Work Next Steps: Araceli Rivera provided an update from the 8/15/24 meeting of the Racial Equity Workgroup, as outlined in the “Report from the Lead Agency” included in the meeting materials packet.
- **Public Comment:** Adrienne Lauby, Gregory Fearon, Hunter Scott, Ludmilla Bade

#### **6. Service Provider Roundtable Update: (00:42:50 – 1:17:35)**

- Margaret Sluyk reviewed topics discussed at the Service Provider Roundtable, including
  - Is there a trend in increasing Behavioral Health beds? If so, is it equal to the increase in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds? They are asking for more context around the bed inventory.
  - Concerns about data in ETO – discrepancies in data pulls
  - ETO 3-year contract didn’t go through proper channels per the charter.
  - Enlisting HMIS Committee to help with solutions for issues and decision-making about how reports are pulled
  - Request for an update about the status of the Strategic Plan and 3.6.
  - Contract delays.
  - Exhibit G in new County contracts about data privacy/security, cyber insurance confusion – clarification about what providers are supposed to do
  - Suggest looking at BH contract procedures for efficiencies that might become best practices to build into service providers contracts
  - Helping providers with up-front funds
  - Gaps in subregional system areas – folks falling through cracks.

Dialogue continued in discussion of some of those concerns. Chair Holmes suggested that perhaps the ETO/HMIS and Strategic Plan 3.6 concerns might be considered as agenda items for an upcoming meeting. Ken Tasseff is the contact for Exhibit 8. The Ending Homelessness Team will connect with Ken Tasseff about Exhibit 8 and provide information to the HC Board.

- **Public Comment:** Tom Bieri, Ludmilla Bade

#### **7. Word from the LEAP Board (01:17:42 – 01:24:02)**

- Chessy Etheridge introduced Rebekah Sammet, who provided updates from the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) Board. Most updates are included in the meeting materials packet. Additionally, the LEAP Board will be creating a survey for input about winter services to assess community needs. Also, they will be partnering with HomeFirst to organize a homeless memorial service in December.
- **Public Comment:** Adrienne Lauby
- No action taken – information only

#### **8. CoC Program Overview of the 2024-2025 CoC Competition (01:24:05 – 01:39:50)**

- Michael Gause presented slides outlining Housing and Urban Development (HUD) priorities and describing the 2024 & 2025 CoC NOFO details. The NOFO was released on July 31, 2024, and project applications must be submitted by September 30, 2024.
- **Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon, Ludmilla Bade, Adrienne Lauby
- No action taken, information only

#### **9. SCHC Charter Ad Hoc Update: (01:39:53– 01:52:34)**

- Jennielynn Holmes explained that a small ad hoc of the Board has held several meetings to explore updating gray areas of the Charter, and briefly summarized some of the intended changes, as outlined in the report for Item No. 9 in the meeting packet of materials.
- **Public Comment:** Rebekah Sammet, Gregory Fearon
- No action taken – information only

#### **10. 10-Minute Break: 2:47 – 2:57 PM: (01:52:37 – 02:03:34)**

#### **11. Data Dashboard Presentation: (02:03:38 – 02:19:04)**

- Daniel Howland-Overbury provided an update and visuals about the progress being made toward building and publishing a Tableau dashboard, as described in the Item No. 11 report in the packet of meeting materials.
- **Public Comment:** Bob Lance, Vicki Miller, Gregory Fearon
- No action taken – information only.

## 12. Housing Inventory Count: (02:19:07 – 02:57:02)

- Thai Hilton, Coordinated Entry Coordinator presented slides providing an overview of the 2024 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) draft report. Data for the HIC is entered by housing and homeless service providers. A summary of the presentation is included in the meeting materials packet.
- **Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon, Gerry La Londe-Berg, Adrienne Lauby, Ludmilla Bade
- No action taken – information only

## 13. Funding Priorities 2025: (02:57:04 – 00:29:21, second recording)

- Jennielynn Holmes led an extended discussion to probe whether the HC Board, and/or other entities, should be involved in identifying funding priorities for the Funding and Evaluation (F&E) Committee. The conversation also delved into using the CoC process as a model, and related matters.
- **Public Comment:** John Baxter, Gerry LaLonde-Berg, Ludmilla Bade, Gregory Fearon
- **Motion:** Jennielynn Holmes moves to align the CoC process and the local funding process more intensely to mirror the CoC process. That process and resultant priorities will be explored by a subcommittee (workgroup) of the F&E Committee, with subsequent recommendations on funding priorities to be presented for discussion at the September 2024 HC Board meeting.
- **Second:** Chris Cabral seconds the motion.
- **Abstentions or Objections:** None
- **Motion is approved.**

*(Chair Jennielynn Holmes must exit the meeting a bit early; the remainder of the meeting will be conducted by Dennis Pocekay.)*

## 14. Review Agenda for September Coalition Board Meeting (00:29:47 – 00:39:00)

- Dennis Pocekay shared the draft agenda for the September 2024 HC Board Meeting. In addition to the indicated October Quarterly Membership Meeting Approval item,

Michael Gause stated that an item will be added to include the F&E Committee recommendations for funding priorities as discerned by the F&E workgroup, in alignment with the motion approved in Item 13, above.

Requests were made that the HEART Team information and MOU update items both appear on the September 2024 agenda. Michael Gause confirmed that they will be included in staff reports for that month.

- **Public Comment:** John Baxter, Gregory Fearon, Ludmilla Bade

**15. Board Member Questions & Comments: (00:39:02 – 00:43:45)**

- Chessy Etheridge – sent an email to the HC Board this morning regarding Board member attendance. Michael Gause responded that an agenda item can be added to the September 2024 agenda for nominations to fill the TAY seat for the remainder of the term, which expires at the end of this calendar year.
- Chris Cabral –The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requested permission today to add 6 months of transitional rent to their offerings to those involved in CalAIM. This would be a permanent benefit, along with the current community supports offered through Partnership HealthPlan.
- Alea Tantarelli – announced that she moved to a Health Program Manager (HPM) position within DHS about four months ago, but has simultaneously continued her work with the Homeless Coalition Board pending the hiring of a replacement for her previous position.

A new staff person is expected to be in place within the next month or two and will then begin to fill Alea's role with the HC Board.

The Board thanks Alea for the enormous body of work and vast efforts she has contributed in service to the HC Board. She is greatly appreciated and will truly be missed when she transitions out of this role.

**16. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda: (00:43:46 – 00:48:00)**

- Gerry LaLonde-Berg, Gregory Fearon, Ludmilla Bade

**Adjournment: 4:52 PM (00:48:00 – 00:48:10)**