



# Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

## Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

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

Zoom Recording:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/YszhM0GqIGaRVNC-bZqFhgpk0c4XSW17b-ewwX-sWe0AKno4z-EvgQ0yacxsPpQ3.RGEI2c-u1DCz0uqM>

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### Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:05:40– 00:08:23)

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

**Present:** Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities | Ben Leroi, Santa Rosa Community Health | Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa | Dennis Pocekay, City of Petaluma | Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Dot Norton, proxy for Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Una Glass, City of Sebastopol | Dannielle Danforth, West County Community Services | Margaret Sluyk, Reach For Home | Chessy Etheridge, Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAP) | Chris Cabral, Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) | Salvina Norris, Sonoma County Indian Health Project (SCHIP) | Dave Cade, proxy for Kristi Lozinto, Member At-Large | Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma | Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park | Aaron Mello, LEAP Board

**Absent:** Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Cheyenne McConnell, TAY Representative | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | Kristi Lozinto, Member At-large

A quorum was present.

### 1 - 4. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:08:24 – 00:10:12)

- Jennielynn Holmes, CoC Board Chair, presented the consent calendar items:
  1. 9/25/24 meeting agenda
  2. 8/28/24 meeting minutes
  3. Summary of Follow-ups from Previous Meeting(s)
  4. Reports for Standing Committee Updates
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Motion:** Una Glass moves to approve the Consent Calendar.

**Second:** Margaret Sluyk seconds the motion.

**Abstentions or Objections:** None.

**Motion passes.** The consent calendar is approved.

## **5. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:10:13 – 1:02:55)**

- Website Update: Michael Gause reported that the County is working on rebranding the new Homeless Coalition website and is expected to be completed by November or December. A new data dashboard will be embedded as well.
- MOU Between Lead Agency and SHCH: Jennifer Solito, DHS Interim Director, reported that she has reviewed the draft MOU and it is now under review by County Counsel. The MOU is planned to be an agenda item for the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Homeless Coalition Board Meeting.

Comments included requests that a discussion to explore whether the County should continue to be the Lead Agency be agendized for a future meeting.

- HEART Team Information: James Alexander, DHS Homelessness Services Division Director, reported that he has scheduled individual meetings with HC Board members, and has been enjoying becoming acquainted with them. He will also be conducting a large group meeting for members of the street outreach teams on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with a focus on collaborative efforts.
- SCHC Transitional Age Youth Lived Experience Seat: Details are available in Item #5 of the Lead Agency staff report, which is included in the meeting materials packet.

Due to recurring absences by the current HC Board TAY representative, a process and timeline for seating an interim replacement this year was discussed, as regular HC Board member elections will take place in January 2025, including for the TAY representative seat.

The TAY seat has typically been challenging to fill. Chair Holmes encourages all to begin to identify people in the community who might be interested in that seat and begin to acquaint them with the HC Board meetings and process, either for an appointment this year if feasible, or in preparation for the January elections. Names and contact information of interested parties can be provided to Michael Gause or Araceli Rivera for follow-up.

- SCHC Board Member Election Process: Araceli Rivera reported that the 2025 HC Board elections will be held virtually, as in previous years. Voting will be conducted through email or drop-off ballots. A run-off election will be initiated in the event of a tie. A special membership HC Board meeting is planned for December 2024.

- CoC Builds NOFO: Michael Gause provided a description and details for a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), entitled CoC Builds. The Lead Agency plans to release a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) this week with a short 3-week turnaround for a decision. Submissions are due to HUD by November 21, 2024. A special HC Board meeting may be necessary in November. Details are available in Item #5 of the Agenda Report in the meeting packet of materials.
- **Motion:** Supervisor Coursey moves for the Lead Agency to release the NOFA, review the resultant applications, and subsequently present a recommendation for the funding award directly to the HC Board for approval at the appropriate time.
- **Second:** Dennis Pocekay seconds.
- **Abstentions or Objections:** None
- **Motion is approved.**
- **Public Comment** on all Lead Agency staff reports: None.

#### 6. Service Provider Roundtable Update: (01:03:01 – 1:21:51)

- Margaret Sluyk reviewed news from the Service Provider Roundtable, including that the Service Providers:
  - decided to limit the number of items presented to the HC Board to two or three a month, and to also provide advance notice of the topics to be presented,
  - support making the Safety Initiative a priority, which led to input from HC Board members about safety concerns and training needs, with more discussion to follow at the October 23, 2024 meeting,
  - are in favor of adding a “Black, Indigenous, and People of Color” (BIPOC) seat to the HC Board, with consensus that it should not replace a current advocacy seat, but should instead be created as an additional HC Board seat.
- **Public Comment:** Ludmilla Bade

#### 7. Coordinated Entry Assessment Prioritization Redesign: Use of Rapid Rehousing (01:21:52 – 02:21:38)

- Thai Hilton presented an update of the Coordinated Entry Assessment Prioritization Redesign process. The redesign working group is nearing completion of the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) prioritization and now seeks direction from the HC Board

regarding how Rapid Rehousing (RRH) interventions and resources will be prioritized. An in-depth pro/con analysis of options was presented and is also provided in Item # 7 “Executive Summary,” in the meeting materials packet.

The Coordinated Entry Advisory (CEA) Committee recommends that the HC Board direct the Assessment and Prioritization (A & P) Redesign working group to develop a prioritization process for lower acuity individuals. If the HC Board chooses to explore this option, staff recommends a working group be created to begin identifying action steps needed to develop a model and for soliciting a proposal for an agency to pilot this approach.

- **Public Comment:** Hunter Scott, Teddie Pierce
- **Motion:** Dennis Pocekay makes, upon friendly amendment from Ben Leroi and Jennielynn Holmes, a two-pronged motion:
  1. Accept the CEA Committee’s recommendation to have minimal overlap between the prioritization of Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. The A & P working group would develop how RRH prioritization should look, potentially with a carve-out for a specific population like Transitional Age Youth (TAY).
  2. Create a work group that can explore a potential pilot, but with the focus on the ongoing redesign of the RRH system, with or without inclusion of a pilot.

**Second:** Jackie Elward seconds the motion.

**Abstentions or Objections:** None.

**Motion is approved.**

**Please Note:** In the interest of time, Item #9, 10-Minute Break, occurred prior to Item #8, Word from the LEAP Board.

**9. 13-Minute Break: 3:17 – 3:30 PM (02:22:09 – 02:35:31)**

**8. Word from the LEAP Board: (02:35:50 – 02:46:02)**

- Chessy Etheridge informed the HC Board of a Lived Experience Conference occurring over November 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, featuring 127 speakers and 56 presentations. Chessy Etheridge and Rebekah Sammet have been awarded full scholarships to attend.
- Rebekah Sammet reported that boulders on the Joe Rodota Trail had been turned into a work of art with names inscribed as a memorial to the unsheltered who had passed away, but the Parks Department painted over the artwork last week. Efforts are being initiated by the LEAP Board to explore obtaining a permit to reestablish the memorial.

- The LEAP Board is conducting surveys about winter services needs and possible collaboration among agencies for providing aid to the homeless during the cold months.
- **Public Comment:** Adrienne Lauby

#### **10. SCHC Governance Charter Revisions & Additions, Part 1: (02:46:44 – 00:37:34, 2<sup>nd</sup> recording)**

- Karissa White presented slides depicting Homeless Coalition Governance Charter recommendations as approved by an ad hoc group thus far. Full details of the recommended changes are available in the Item #10 Executive Summary provided in the meeting materials packet.
- **Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon, Ludmilla Bade, Teddie Pierce, Hunter Scott, Adrienne Lauby
- Discussion proceeded in exploration of the pros and cons of replacing the advocacy seat on the HC Board with a Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) seat, as recommended by the ad hoc committee, versus adding a new seat for BIPOC representation
- **Motion:** Chair Holmes moves to approve the recommended charter changes to date, including a change that the BIPOC seat will replace an at-large seat. The homeless advocacy seat will also be more broadly defined to include service provider language.

**Second:** Mayor Natalie Rogers seconds the motion.

**Abstentions/Objections:** None

**Motion is approved.**

#### **11. Funding Priorities Next Steps: (00:37:47 – 01:08:13)**

- Michael Gause recapped the Funding & Evaluation (F&E) Committee's recommendations for the framework of the FY 2025-2026 Local Homeless Services Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which were developed subsequent to direction by the HC Board in August 2024. An overview of the identified process for developing and disseminating the NOFA is provided in the Agenda Report for Item #11, "Funding Priorities Next Steps," in the packet of meeting materials.

The recommended action is to approve the basic framework for the FY 2025-2026 Local Homeless Services NOFA as presented in the agenda report, and as described by Michael Gause.

- **Public Comment:** Teddy Pierce
- **Motion:** Supervisor Coursey moves to approve the NOFA language as presented by staff.  
**Second:** Dennis Pocekay seconds the motion.  
**Abstentions/Objections:** None.  
**Motion is approved.**

**12. Point in Time (PIT) Count: Full Report:**

- Due to time constraints, the PIT Count report will be postponed to a future meeting.

**13. October Quarterly Membership Meeting Approval: (1:08:37 – 1:10:26)**

- Araceli Rivera presented the agenda for the October 17, 2024 meeting of the Homeless Coalition Quarterly Membership Meeting.
- **Public Comment: None.**
- **Motion:** Una Glass moves to approve the agenda for the October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Homeless Coalition Quarterly Membership Meeting.  
**Second:** Chessy Etheridge seconds the motion.  
**Abstentions/Objections:** None.  
**Motion is approved.**

**14. Review Agenda for October Homeless Coalition Board Meeting: (01:10:28 – 01:13:09)**

- The draft agenda for the October 23, 2024, HC Board meeting was presented for review.
- **Public Comment:** None.

**15. Board Member Questions and Comments: (01:13:13 – 01:13:57)**

- Michael Gause notes that the Measure O NOFA has just been released, and provides some funding targeted toward youth. There will be a pre-bid conference on October 7, 2024. Questions may be directed to [DHS-Procurement@sonoma-county.org](mailto:DHS-Procurement@sonoma-county.org).
- **Public Comment:** None.

**16. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda: (1:13:59 – 01:16:44)**

- Teddie Pierce, Gregory Fearon

**Adjournment:** Chair Holmes adjourned the meeting at 5:25 PM.